

twenty lakh tonnes of which have been recently sealed in Gujarat.

If the ergot-affected wheat is consumed, it can cause paralysis and dysentery. If it is used as seed, it can cause the disease in an epidemic form also.

This wheat was tested in the Plant Protection Quarantine Laboratory at Bhavnagar in Saurashtra, where it was found polluted, and it was decided that such wheat should not be off-loaded from the ships, but due to some unknown reasons it was off-loaded.

I would, therefore, request that the Government should conduct a high-level enquiry, preferably a CBI enquiry, into the matter.

(viii) Need to provide essential commodities and financial assistance to the cyclonic affected people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been badly affected by cyclone and torrential rains, causing huge damage to agricultural crops, plantations, damage to jetties, backwaters, roads, buildings etc. The rough estimates of damage would go to more than Rs. 10 crores. On the 16th November, the cyclonic weather and the rain did not allow the aircraft to land at Port Blair. Only on the 17th November a flight could land at Port Blair. And even thereafter, the torrential rains and the cyclonic weather continued, and more or less the Island was cut off from the mainland. On the 24th night, the cyclone intensified and caused massive damage, and the cyclone continued till 29th November. Damage was caused from Great Nicobar in the South to Diglipur in the north.

Although no human life was lost during this period, the fishermen lost their boats, fishing nets etc., and some houses. On the 7th and 8th December, another cyclone

along with torrential rains started in the Northern and Middle Andamans, which took 15 lives, with 21 missing. Huge loss of cattle and poultry birds has also occurred. Paddy crops, plantation crops, rabi crops like vegetables, oilseeds and pulses have been completely lost. A few hundred families have been rendered homeless. Immediate relief measures are necessary for rehabilitating the families who lost their homes, and for supply of cattle, fishermen's boats, nets etc., to enable them to start activities for their livelihood. Immediate provision for work has to be made, without which people will face starvation. There is acute shortage of essential commodities in the Island. Immediate arrangements should be made to despatch essential commodities to the Island, on a war-footing basis.

I would like to appeal to the Government to take immediate, sympathetic action for providing liberal assistance to the Union Territory Administration.

(ix) need to direct NALCO, BALCO and SECL to provide jobs to one person from each family displaced by the execution of their projects in Orissa

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): A large number of people have been displaced following the execution of projects by National Aluminium Company and South-Eastern Coalfields Ltd. in Orissa. NALCO and South-Eastern Coalfields Ltd. had promised to provide jobs to one member from each displaced family. But it is unfortunate that neither NALCO nor SE Coalfields Ltd. is strictly observing the rules with regard to providing jobs to the persons whose lands were acquired. Bharat Aluminium Company has also not been able to arrive at an agreement with the local people regarding their suitable rehabilitation. All the affected persons are poor, marginal farmers, and most of them are tribals.

As such, I demand that NALCO, BALCO and SECL which are in the public sector, should be directed by the Govern-