

13.15 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

PETITION RE: INCLUSION OF LIMBOO
COMMUNITY IN THE SCHEDULED
TRIBES LIST OF SIKKIM

[English]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Bir Bal Limboo, Chairman and other office bearers of the Sikkim Limboo Action Committee for Tribal Status, Gangtok, Sikkim, regarding inclusion of Limboo community in the Scheduled Tribes List of Sikkim.

13.16 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER—*Contd.*

**Recent Cyclone/Flood in Tamil Nadu
and Pondicherry**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the situation arising out of recent cyclonic storm and floods, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry and the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Government.

As the Members are all aware, the east and west coasts of India are highly prone to tropical cyclones arising in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. On an average, about 5-6 tropical cyclones form in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea every year, out of which 2-3 become severe.

A cyclonic storm developed over the Bay of Bengal on 2nd December, 1993 intensified into a severe cyclonic storm on the next day. This, with a core of hurricane winds crossed the Tamil Nadu coast around 11.00 hours on 4th December, 1993 near Karaikal in Pondicherry. Under its influence, coastal areas of Tamil Nadu experienced heavy rains, strong winds and high seas. The monsoon which accompanied the cyclonic storm caused heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry also. The intense rainfall accompanied by high velocity winds resulted in flash floods, floods in the rivers and plains and sea erosion in the affected areas.

In fact, immediately before this, during the first week of November, 1993, there was a trough of low pressure that formed and extended itself from the Gulf of Mannar to the Southern Bay, off Tamil Nadu coast from 4 to 9th November, 1993. It brought in an unusually heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala causing substantial damage in many inland districts of the States. It caused landslides also in some parts of Tamil Nadu.

In Tamil Nadu, the coastal districts bore the immediate onslaught of the cyclonic storm and heavy rains in December, 1993 resulting in loss of 111 lives and damage to over 1.61 lakh huts. Paddy crop close to harvest has been extensively damaged. The Government of Tamil Nadu undertook timely relief measures in the affected areas including evacuation of people from inundated areas to safe shelters, ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of the deceased and injured, compensation for damaged houses and issue of essential commodities free of cost to those rendered homeless. The State Government has already distributed