

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री (सैदपुर) : बनारस के अन्दर ऐतिहासिक दुर्घटना हुई है। 100 आदमियों ने जाकर लूटना शुरू कर दिया।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप लिख कर दीजिए।

...(व्यवधान)...

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

[Shri A.K. Balam then left the House]

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप को थोड़ा ध्यान करना चाहिए। स्टेट एसेम्बली बैठी हुई है। उन को कहिए, जा कर पकड़े। .. (व्यवधान)... शास्त्री होते हुये अगर धर्म का उल्लंघन करें तो मैं क्या कर सकता हूँ। शास्त्री नाम ही नाम के रह गये हैं, हमारे यहाँ।

[Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri then left the House]

12.16 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported recent unprecedented, torrential and unseasonal rain in Tamil Nadu causing loss of human lives and cattle, and damage to crops and properties.

SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur) : Sir, I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

“Reported recent unprecedented torrential unseasonal rain in Tamil Nadu causing loss of a number of human lives, cattle, damage to crops and properties and the relief measures undertaken by the Government in rehabilitating the flood-stricken people”.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : Sir, according to the information made available by Government of Tamil Nadu, 8 districts of the State namely, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Tirunelveli, The Nilgiris, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Coimbatore have been affected by unseasonal rainfall between 1st to 7th March, 1984 with reports of heavy rainfall in the districts of Ramanathapuram and The Nilgiris. 45 human lives are reported to have been lost in 6 districts namely, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and South Arcot. The total number of huts/houses damaged are reported to be 19,024. The total number of cattle lost are reported to be 731. This does not include the damage caused to houses and cattle lost in Ramanathapuram, where according to the State Government, considerable damage has been caused but assessment of damages is in progress. The total cropped area reported to be affected is 1.17 lakh acres. The extent of damage to public property is being assessed.

Immediately during and after the natural calamity, the State Government took up rescue and relief measures. So far 19,619 persons have been evacuated to safer places, out of 30,723 families reported to be affected by heavy rains except for Tirunelveli where the assessment is in progress. The help of Army and Navy has been obtained for rescue and relief operations. 4 helicopters have been requisitioned, 2 each from Navy and Airforce, for dropping of food packets in the affected areas.

It is unfortunate that Tamil Nadu has been hit by a series of natural calamities starting from December, 1983 onwards, when they had torrential rains causing

floods, resulting in damage to life and property. The Government of India have recently sanctioned a ceiling of Central assistance of Rs. 41.18 crores for relief and rehabilitation to the State for the damages suffered in December, 1983.

There were heavy rains in the first fortnight of February, 1984 also, causing damage to life and property. While the State was recovering from this calamity, they were again affected by rains in the first week of this month.

I wish to assure the House that requisite help shall be made available, after receipt of memorandum and request for assistance from the State Government.

SHRI K. T. Kosalram : Sir, I have gone through the statement given by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Rao Birendra Singh; it contains mainly the previous rain calamity. I am speaking not merely on the basis of hearsay and press reports. I was touring Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts from 27th February to 4th March, 1984. Therefore, I am basing my remarks on the personal experience and information and not on press reports. Twelve persons have lost their lives in the widespread rains that lashed Tirunelveli district particularly my parliamentary constituency of Tiruchendur, for three days from Friday, the 2nd March 1984. The Collector of Tirunelveli district has confirmed that 3 girls were swept away in the flooded Nambiar river in Nanguneri taluk. I have seen myself water overflowing Manimuthar and Papanasam reservoirs. You can imagine the heavy downpour when I say that Ambasamudram town recorded a rainfall of 300 mm. We never imagined this amount of rain in my district. Then Tenkasi had a rainfall of 272 mm and Tirunelveli 90 mm just in three days. All these places are in Tirunelveli district.

Hundreds of villages in Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts have been marooned. Several lakhs of villagers

have been evacuated to places of safety. The naval helicopters pressed into service for airdropping of food packets in marooned villages in Ramanathapuram district could not go on their sorties due to poor visibility. The visibility was poor and even helicopters cannot go. Boats were requisitioned by the Collector of Ramanathapuram for distributing food packets to the marooned villagers.

On 8th and 9th March, 1984 there was continuous rain in several parts of Tamil Nadu like Kanyakumari Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts. On 7th March 1984 the toll in the unseasonal rain in several parts of the State rose to 32 deaths with a family of six people having been swept away in the swollen vaigai river near Theni in Madurai district. The statement read by the Minister does not represent the latest situation. These are the uptodate figure. Tirunelveli accounted for 13 deaths, Tiruchirapalli-6 deaths, South Arcot district for five deaths, etc.

12.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

The ceaseless rains which started sometime in the second week of December, 1983 have left a trail of destruction in Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, South Arcot, Chingleput and North Arcot districts.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU (Chengalpattu) : Chingleput is not there in the Minister's statement.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM : In Chingleput most of the roads have been completely washed away. Unless you give us a substantial amount, the areas which have been washed away cannot be restored.

Totally about 200 human lives and 16,300 heads of cattle have been lost. The standing agricultural crops on 2.2 lakh acres have been washed away, 43

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lakhs of people in 5,893 villages have been flood-stricken. 3.27 lakh huts have been completely destroyed and 3.82 lakh huts partially destroyed. It is not mentioned in your statement.

(Interruption.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members coming from Tamilnadu may give in writing to Shri Kosalram who may explain the whole thing. It should not be like this. You all represent the whole of India and not only of Tamilnadu.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM : 7,000 k. ms. of roads laid by the Government of Tamilnadu under the self-sufficiency scheme have been affected. I would say the entire road has been affected. 3,183 irrigation tanks, 611 bridges and 1,110 school buildings have been damaged. The coastal hamlets on the long coastline of Tamilnadu have become tiny islands as the communications have all been cut by flood waters. For example, in my own constituency, near my village, there is one village called Punnakayal, a coastal fishermen village in my constituency has become an island with water on all sides. The people can go only by boats. There is no drinking water. Such worst things has happened in the coastal area. The people are facing starvation as the essential items could not reach them.

Besides the sum of Rs. 5 crores given by the hon. Prime Minister from the P.M.'s Relief Fund, the Centre has given Rs. 15 crores to the State on the basis of Central Team's Report. The State Government has already spent Rs. 37.54 crores on flood relief works. Hon. Defence Minister, Shri R. Venkataraman and the Central Team have appreciated the efforts of the State Government in this direction. The State of Tamilnadu is facing the gravest calamity. The State Government of Tamilnadu has asked for immediate assistance of Rs. 128 crores from the Centre.

So far as human sufferings are concerned, there cannot be the question of

Plan expenditure and non-Plan expenditure. The Plan efforts are for the future-generation. If the present generation is wiped out, where is the question of Planning?

I appeal to the hon. Agriculture Minister, my hon. friend, Rao Birendra Singh that he should not wait now for Central Team's visit and their report. The Central Team may not be able to assess the loss because all the roads and rail communications have been cut in several places.

I request the hon. Minister to recommend the release of at least Rs. 100 crores from the Government of India. The hon. Prime Minister has given Rs. 20 lakhs from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to those who have suffered tragic losses in the recent floods. I appeal to her to sanction a further sum of Rs. 5,000/- per head to those who have lost their breadwinners in Tirunelveli, Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts.

My friend, the Agriculture Minister who is a kissan himself will appreciate...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not kissan a but kissan 'raja'.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, I object to this. It is an abusive term.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU : Don't impute motives to our Minister.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM : 'Raja' means he is head of the kissans. He is a champion of Kissan. Sir, I was saying that these people have lost all their crops in these heavy rains and the hon. Minister has to come to their rescue immediately and use his good offices for releasing Rs. 100 crores flood relief assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu. It is unfortunate that Government of Tamil Nadu has not sent their memorandum so far in respect of recent floods. They may be sending it. (Interruptions) But don't wait for the memorandum. Please see that immediate relief is given.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, I have already given details of the damage for the entire State of Tamil Nadu about the recent rains from 1st to 7th March, 1984 and also information pertaining to the earlier period although the question related only to March rains, I have given the information that we could collect from the State Government. The hon. Member knows more about it because he has visited the area. I don't dispute his figures. Further, I have not given the figures with regard to each constituency and district separately.

Sir, it is a fact that the rainfall has been very heavy during this period of early March. It was 200 to 800 per cent in excess of the normal rainfall during the first week of March in the four southern meteorological sub-divisions. I have accepted all that. I am at one with the hon. Member that sufficient assistance should be provided in this case also but we are waiting for the memorandum and request for assistance. *(Interruptuous)*

We are awaited the memorandum and request of the State Government. The quantum of assistance will depend upon the report and assessment of the Central team. We have followed this practice in the past. I have also said recently, namely, only on 8th of this month that we have released Rs. 41.18 crores for assistance on account of damages in December and this money is immediately available to the Tamil Nadu Government. The Tamil Nadu Government is itself busy with the relief operations now. Soon after February there was heavy rainfall in March also. They will be sending the Memorandum as soon as they can do it; and we shall look into it.

SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM : For the earlier calamity you have given Rs 41 crores. The present calamity is too much, it is much more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is expecting the report.

—Shri Sudhir Kumar Giri—absent. Shri Lawrence.

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE (Idukki) : This flood havoc is occurring many times in many parts of our country. We are not having even one year without flood in some part of the country or the other. Sometimes it is in the north; sometimes it is in the South. Formerly it is a practice that only drought was there in the Southern side. Now flood also has come in the South of India... *(An hon. Member : National integration)* In a way, it is national integration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : During the same dates last year in Tamil Nadu we had no rains. We had to bring some American scientists to get rain.

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : And spending lot of money.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the rain is much more than what is required.

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : In the Statement of the hon. Minister, he has mentioned 8 districts of Tamil Nadu namely, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Nilgiris, Thanjavoor, Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Coimbatore. He has omitted South Arcot District, Chidambaram is there which is the parliamentary constituency of my hon. colleague Dr. Kulandaivelu; he represents it. Great damage was done to that area also because of this flood. The tributaries of Vellar river overflowed. Vadavar breached at various places. Because of this, the whole of South Arcot district which I mentioned, in particular Chidambaram constituency, had to face very great damage. But it has not been mentioned in his Statement. It is omitted. Like that you have omitted Srivilliputhur of Ramnad district. It expects generally only 46 m.m. of rainfall every year—that is the maximum. But this year it came to 540 m.m.—that is, 11-fold. This is too much. One can visualise the damage done through such heavy rains. Likewise in the

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Nilgiris District, big landslides have taken place. This is not mentioned in the statement at all. Now the question is : how are we going to prevent this flood havoc ? The Sixth Plan outlay to prevent flood was Rs. 1045 crores; So far up to 1983, only Rs. 473 crores have been spent and the rest of the amount has not been utilised. In Tamil Nadu itself there was a famous project called Veeranam Project. It was shelved during emergency because of political reasons. During emergency we all know, DMK was ruling in Tamil Nadu; The D.M.K. opposed the Emergency and because of that DMK Government was dismissed. The Government at the Centre was playing politics to pressurise the then Tamil Nadu Government and they succeeded in shelving Veeranam project. This has resulted in great distress and misery to the poor people of Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a State project. The Central Government has nothing to do with that.

(Interruptions)

DR. V. KULANDAIVELU (Chidambaram) : I raised this matter on the floor of this House some time back. The hon. Minister had given the reply that a new project, the Telugu-Gangai project would be taken up and not the original Veeranam project. In this regard I say that this new project is a multi-crore project and it might exceed one thousand crore of rupees.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : Let the hon. Minister take the responsibility of explaining the fact and fixing up the responsibility for not completing this project. So, for the last three or four years, every year, in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, because of unprecedented heavy rains, flood havoc is causing great misery and distress to the poor people. I would therefore submit that the Government should take up schemes for linking the

main rivers in the country. If the Government had taken up such a scheme we could have avoided the natural calamities due to flood which is creating great havoc and misery to the people. Sir, in this context, I would like to point out that whenever natural calamities like drought and flood occur, it is always the poor people who are affected, not big people, big industrialists, big landlords or the moneyed people. It is only the poor agriculturists, poor farmers and the people belonging to the lowest strata are affected because of these calamities. The Government are always claiming that they are doing everything for the downtrodden. I would say that all these are only a tall talk. They are not doing anything sincerely for these poor people.

We have a vast human force unutilised and if it is being mobilised and utilised properly, we could avoid the natural calamities to a great extent. So, my humble request to the Government is that they should take immediate steps to link the major rivers in the country and also to implement the projects which have already been sanctioned. They should also complete those projects which have already been taken up as soon as possible. Government should also give adequate help to the poor people who have been affected by this natural calamity. My friend, Mr. K.T. Kosalram has demanded Rs. 100 crores for this purpose. I do not know the exact loss sustained on this account. But my colleagues here say that it would be more than Rs. 100 crores. I would therefore request the Government to make a survey and calculate the loss as soon as possible so that proper help can be given to the people affected. The general practice is—whether it is the Chief Minister or the Central Ministers—whenever the flood occurs, they undertake a sort of a survey in a revealed manner, they fly over the flood affected area in helicopters or chartered aircrafts by spending so much money, but they would like to give only a paltry sum by way of help to the poor people. However, permanent solutions are not being made. They do not have any will for that. My request to the Government is that they should try to find out some solution for this. In

other countries by organising the people, by utilising the manpower, they have overcome in a big way this kind of natural calamity. But in India every year this is on the increase. It is only because of lack of proper planning and lack of will on the part of the Government.

I would request the Government to give interim relief to the people of 11 flood affected area; at least Rs 50 crores should be given immediately and after proper calculations, other help has also to be given to the people.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The hon. Member has provided some other information about South Arcot district and other areas which I do not have in detail. I would like to inform him that South Arcot district has not been included by the State Government itself in its report amongst the affected districts.

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : You can make an enquiry about it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is telling you that he has not received a report like that from the State Government. It is for you to take up with the State Government.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The eight districts which have been reported affected are Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Tirunelveli, The Nilgiris, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Coimbatore. South Arcot is not one of them, which according to the hon. Member has been affected.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In view of what Shri Lawrence has stated, you can ask the State Government whether it has been affected or not.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I am myself unable to understand certain things. According to the data of rainfall supplied by the State Government, certain districts which have received rainfall less than other districts have been included,

and some districts which have received more rainfall have been left out. There are certain things, about which I am not in a position to give any clarification. I am not myself very clear about the position, unless we get a detailed report from the State Government. It is absolutely essential that the real position is assessed by a Central team on the subject after visiting the area. Till then, I am unable to say anything, but I have given all the assurance that as in the past, we shall extend all possible assistance to the State. It is only assistance for the flood; as I said Rs. 41.18 crores have been recently released by us. Apart from that, for the drought relief in the State in the years 1982-83 and 1983-84, nearly Rs. 77 crores assistance has been provided to Tamil Nadu alone, and in this calendar year, the assistance provided against the natural calamities has been an all-time record. It is very high.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The natural calamities in Tamil Nadu also an all-time record.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Tamil Nadu has received a lot of assistance in the past for drought, and relief to Madras for provision of water which was outside the guidelines that we have issued for helping the farmers in rural areas particularly.

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : You have not mentioned anything about the interim relief.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They will follow the usual procedure, Mr. Lawrence.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU : Though the hon. Members said that it was an unprecedented incident, I would like to recall past history and say that it is a routine affair. Almost every year there is either flood or drought in some parts of the country—and particularly in Tamil Nadu. So, the Minister should not ignore such a continuous natural calamity. Instead of providing piece-meal assistance whenever there is drought and whenever there is

[Shri Era Anbarasu]

flood, I would request the hon. Minister to evolve a permanent solution to prevent such natural calamities.

Of course, the drought situation cannot be prevented. But floods can be avoided by the construction of a number of lakes, or as my friend suggested, by linking Kaveri and Ganga, and whatever other rivers possible. This can be a permanent solution that is, to avoid such floods. This approach has not unfortunately been concentrated upon. Such a decision has not been taken on these issues. Of course, I do understand that it will entail a huge financial commitment. But if especially the linking of Ganga and Kaveri had been planned about ten or twenty years back, by this time at least one-tenth of the project would have been completed, though it is a mammoth scheme. I understand it involves a large amount, but it is worthwhile and worth taking up.

Before going into the details of the havoc caused by floods, I request the hon. Minister to formulate a good approach, to find out a proper solution to avoid floods and such other natural calamities.

In Tamil, there is a proverb—I am not an expert in translating Tamil into English. The Tamil proverb says :

*Uralukku Oru Pakkam adi,
Maddalathukku Irandu Pakkam Adi."*

When we pound, only one side gets beaten. But in a drum, both the sides get beaten. In the same way, Tamil Nadu received beating on both the sides. Very recently, the people of Tamil Nadu suffered due to drought; and while we were recovering slowly from the drought situation, floods have also come. This is unprecedented. Never in the history of Tamil Nadu has such a loss occurred.

I would like to recall the statement made by the Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu in the Legislative Assembly, that

they have submitted a memorandum. The report is here. During the Budget speech also, he said that they had submitted a memorandum.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : For which period ? It is for December—I have said it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : We have given the sanction already—for December.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU : That cannot be an excuse. I do not want to make politics out of the sufferings of the people of Tamil Nadu. When you come to know of the loss of life, loss of cattle and of human suffering, you should provide immediate assistance. In many acres of land, standing crops have been washed away. I was told that the loss of human lives, cattle destruction, roads, bridges and standing crops is colossal. Standing crops in about 2.5 lakh acres of land have been washed away. 5,300 villages were affected very badly. 45 lakh people are affected. I learn that they are living in islands. Some of the villages have become virtually islands. In my constituency, Chengalpattu, in particular some of the villages in Madhuranthakam Taluk, in some of the villages in Chengalpattu Taluk, roads have been cut off, bridges have been washed away, crops have been destroyed. A lot of damage has been caused. The sufferings of the people and the loss of property and other things is being communicated to the Central Government. When they come to know about it, I request the Central Government to come forward with some interim relief immediately without waiting for a report from the State Government; sometimes they may send a report; sometimes they may not do it. After all, it is the duty of the Central Government to come to the rescue of the suffering people. I would like to read from the statement given by the leader of the delegation of the central team. It reads as under :

“Even after a month we can visualise easily the devastation to standing

crops, irrigation system, highways and private and public property in Tanjavur delta and in some of the other districts."

The damage caused cannot be so accurately assessed. So, let us not go into the details or accuracy of the damage caused.

Recently, I learnt that the Government of Tamilnadu has submitted a white paper regarding the loss of cattle, destruction of roads, etc. I request the hon. Minister to announce some interim relief immediately. Mr. K.T. Kosalram was requesting allotment of some money. Mr. Lawrence Also requested allotment of about Rs. 100 crores. Here I would like to insist that we cannot minimise the loss or we cannot arrive at any compromise on the loss of lives and such other things. Therefore, the demand of the State Government of Rs. 128 crores, whether it is more or less, should be accepted.

DR. V. KULANDAIVELU : All members from Tamilnadu request for the allotment of money.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Where is the demand ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI ERA ANBARASU : It is stated that they have submitted a memorandum. It may be true or it may not be true. But the Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu has stated in the Assembly also about it. I request the hon. Minister to contact the State Government immediately for their memorandum or find out the details of the loss ; and they should come forward to allot Rs 128 crores immediately. I want that full assistance should be given to the State Government to mitigate the sufferings of the people of Tamilnadu.

The policy of the Central Government making a ceiling of 75 per cent is a dilatory one. I request that the policy should be revised. Of course, the con-

straint of resources will be there. Before concluding I request the hon. Minister to revise the policy and provide sufficient relief to the States in such a state of suffering due to natural calamities.

13 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When citizens of India die in such floods and natural calamities, we should do something for their dependants, not only in Tamil Nadu but throughout India. Because when these lives are lost, most of them are heads of families and their dependants have also to be compensated. They can give five to ten thousand rupees to each family where the head of the family dies. Several people die and their dependants have to be taken care of ; I suggest this not only for Tamil Nadu but for the whole country, and the Government should do something about this.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : For people who die in natural calamities ? who receives the compensation, when the man dies ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Revenue Department of the State Government will be able to find out, and they can do it. This can be taken note of.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU : We are thankful to the Prime Minister for sanctioning about Rs. 20 lakhs from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, and I would also request her to provide Rs. 5,000/- for each family.

DR. V. KULANDAIVELU : It should be at least Rs. 10,000/-.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I am sorry, in spite of my repeated statements and clarifications the hon. Member has still not been able to understand some of the things which I wanted to clarify to the House.

Irrigation projects are a different matter. I am no longer looking after

[Rao Birendra Singh]

Irrigation Ministry and all long-term solutions or permanent preventive measures are part of the planned development in a State and that is between the State Government and the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Irrigation to decide, as to how much allocation could be made for these projects which the State Government might consider necessary for providing a permanent solution of the drought problem in some areas of Tamil Nadu. It is not possible to decide them always without any request from the State and on receipt of the details about the damage we will look into it.

S RI K.T. KOSALRAM : Why do you wait for their report? That is what we are telling.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : It is not going to be spent through you. It is the State Government which is going to spend the money. We cannot give it to you.

SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM : In anticipation of the report from the State Government you sanction money immediately to give relief.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU : Some interim relief should be given.

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : Some relief should be given immediately.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Why are they interfering again and again? Would they allow me to speak or not?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hear him. He cannot follow a new policy or procedure for Tamil Nadu alone.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Apart from what I have said about relief, we have provided Rs. 41.8 crores up to December. Tamil Nadu has also margin money of Rs. 8.59 crores at its disposal. This money is provided annually to start immediately relief operations in case of

calamities. The hon. Members would be glad to know that it is a higher sum of money provided to Tamil Nadu than what the larger or similar larger States like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and even Rajasthan have got. The permanently drought affected State of Rajasthan has less margin money than Tamil Nadu. That money should suffice for the time being to start whatever relief work the State Government wants to undertake.

I tried to make hon. Members understand that the memorandum about which he was talking, was for the period of December. In that the State Government had asked for Rs. 129 crores. The memorandum from the State Government was received on 7th January, 1984. Central Team was deputed to the State on 29th of January. And the report of the Team was received within a very short period. And on 20th February even the high level Committee took a decision. Within a period of less than two months after the receipt of memorandum, study of the memorandum, visit of the Central Team, preparation of the report of the Central Team, its submission to the Agriculture Ministry, its submission to the high level Committee, its submission to the Finance Ministry, all these things have been completed. And on 8th March even the money has been released. Orders have reached Tamil Nadu Government. What could be quicker than this? *(Interruption).*

The hon. Member, Shri Anbarasu, talked about revising the policy. I have said earlier in the House that we have made certain suggestions to the Eighth Finance Commission, which would look into this whole subject of provision of relief. But the hon. Member has very wrong impression about flood relief. The Central Government on non-plan side provides 75 per cent subsidy and not 5 per cent as he is having the impression. The State Government has to provide only 25 per cent matching. Of course, margin money is taken into account for all expenditure. And for drought it is different. There also there is a non-plan side and plan side. On non-plan side

most of the money as for instance for provision for water supply for drinking purposes, is a grant from the Central Government. Up to a certain level it is an advance plan assistance. But over and above that a certain level of this advance plan assistance is not to be adjusted immediately against the State's allocations. It is to be recovered slowly in five or ten years' time. So that is a different system for droughts. But as I said, so far all these guidelines and this system have worked very well to the benefit of farmer and poor people suffering from floods, droughts, land-slides and various other calamities in the country. All time high assistance has been provided during this year but we are thinking of revising the norms and guidelines also.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU : What is your categorical answer ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is over now. I am going to the next item, Matters under Rule 377.

13 11 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT (Ahmedabad) : The workers working in textile mills in Gujarat are facing unemployment on large scale due to anti-labour policy adopted by mill owners... ..

(Interruptions).

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on a point of propriety. There is no Minister on the Treasury Benches.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I tell you because the lunch hour was dispensed with and as a special case I allowed.....

(Interruptions)

If you do not want it, we will meet after 2 p.m.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You call some Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will meet after lunch.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : No, we want 377 to be taken up now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This item was not there but since some hon. Members wanted this, this item was taken up now. Therefore, now I will adjourn and we will meet at 2 p.m.....

(Interruptions).

They never knew that we are sitting now.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You inform them now, they can come.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What I say is shall we meet after 2 p.m.?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Barot, you can re-start. It is not proper, when there is nobody on the Treasury Benches. Therefore, I adjourn the House now to meet at 2.10 p.m.

13 12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI F.H. MOUSIN in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377-

Contd.

(i) *R2 : Closure of Textile Mills in Gujarat resulting in unemployment of workers*

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT (Ahmedabad) : The workers working in Textile