

(2) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1980-81 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—3075/81]

12.10 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 14th December, 1981, agreed without any amendment to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Bill, 1981, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th November, 1981.”

12.12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE RECENT CYCLONE IN SOME AREAS IN WEST BENGAL AND ORISSA

SHRI R. P. DAS (Krishnagar): I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction and Irrigation and Civil Supplies to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

“The reported loss of numerous human lives and cattle and damage to property and standing crops caused by the recent cyclone in some areas in West Bengal and Orissa.”

12.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): According to the report received from the Government of Orissa, a severe cyclonic storm which subsequently developed into a hurricane was first detected over Bay of Bengal on the 8th instant at 5.30 P.M. It moved northwards alongwith Orissa Coast with wind speed exceeding 120 K.M. per hour and crossed the coast near Sagar Islands on the 10th night. Preliminary situation report received indicated that coastal areas mostly in the districts of Balasore and Cuttack were affected.

The State Government reported that adequate precautionary measures were taken to warn the people and the people were evacuated where necessary from the low lying areas. The State Government stationed additional District Magistrates at Kendrapara and Jajpur in Cuttack District and at Bhadrak in Balasore District to organise relief operations.

Roofs of large number of kutcha houses were blown off, number of trees up-rooted, roofs of the block office buildings, staff quarters and garage have been blown away in one block. Many primary school buildings have been damaged and communication links were disrupted. Saline inundation was also reported in low lying areas causing damage to standing paddy crops. Four fishing trawlers and two country boats are reported to be missing while one power boat capsized. Though details of casualty of human lives and cattle losses are being ascertained, according to the preliminary report three persons were reported to have died in a village due to house collapse. Betel vines were reported to have been damaged. Three breaches were reported in the embankment near Kantipur.

Steps were taken by the State Government to disburse house building grants immediately in affected areas.

[Shri R. P. Das]

washed away by the tidal waves. Numerous cattle have died and washed away. These may run into several thousands. According to Mr. Pravash Roy, the State Irrigation Minister, high tidal water headed by a severe cyclonic storm hit all along the coastal areas of Midnapore and South 24 Parganas during the day and the night of 10-11 December, causing unimaginable damage to men, material and property that fell in the way of the cyclone. It swept the entire area. Incessant rains and huge tidal waves had damaged the endless length—over hundreds of kilometers of embankments, dikes and bunds—in the cyclone-battered districts of which about 233 kms. had been totally washed away.

I particularly would like to draw the attention of the Minister that unless these embankments are constructed on an emergent basis, the Sunderbans area cannot be saved from the rising of regular tidal waters of the rivers. It is reported that 20 lakh people of 19 blocks of 16 police stations in the South 24 Parganas alone had been affected. The worst affected areas are—Patha Pratina, Canning, Namkhana, Kultuli, Gosaba, Basanti, Mathurapur and Jaynagar. Sagar Dwip and Manshuri islands are reported to have been totally devastated.

In the district of Midnapore, at Mahishadal alone, 6,000 houses have been damaged. Standing crops and betel leaf cultivation for which Mahishadal is famous, in at least 300 places have suffered extensive damage. Communications with the effected areas of the Sunderbans have been completely snapped and restoration work has just started.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please come to the question proper.

SHRI R. P. DAS: The availability of drinking water has now become a serious problem in these areas. There is water everywhere, but not a drop

to drink. The tube-wells have been damaged. The tanks and ponds are now under saline water. Therefore bringing of potable water has been the prime task of the relief teams.

The State Government has been taking all possible measures to send relief to all the affected areas far flung in the districts. The panchayats have been doing a commendable service to the cause of the distressed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The State Government have done their job. You ask them about what the Central Government have to do.

SHRI R. P. DAS: Along with West Bengal, Orissa also experienced a similar cyclone. Three-metre high tidal waves entered the low-lying areas in Mahakalpur and Jamber islands along the coast of Cuttack district. It has caused immense damage in the coastal belt of the district, including Paradip. Roofs of the kutcha houses in the villages have been blown away and trees have been uprooted. Power supply and communications in Kendrapara sub-division have been disrupted and standing crops damaged. Loss of life was also reported.

Now I would like to put the following questions to the hon. Minister for immediate reply. May I know whether a Central Study Team has been constituted and sent to the devastated areas of West Bengal to assess the extent of loss caused by the cyclone on 10th December? Has any decision been taken in regard to the release of Rs. 20 crores that has been asked by the State Irrigation Minister for repair and restoration work of the embankments etc.?

According to the meteorologists in the Alipur weather office, disturbances of such a severe type had never been recorded in the annals of the Alipur Meteorological Office since the beginning of this century, at this time of the year. In view of this, why the danger signals could not be issued well in advance, say, a day earlier?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: All the information that I could get from the

Governments of West Bengal and Orissa has been given in my statement. The hon. Member seems to know more than I know for the time being. He said that this calamity could have been averted if sufficient number of embankments had been built in the Sunderbans area. I do not agree with him at all. Cyclones, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are calamities which cannot be averted.

All that we can do is to give timely warning. We have a sufficiently advanced warning system for that purpose. As I have stated, in this case timely warning was given, not only by the meteorological offices on the coast, but also by the radio from Madras, Bhubaneswar and Calcutta, from the 7th of the month itself. Daily bulletins were being issued by the All India Radio right up to the morning of the 11th. The radio stations at Calcutta Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Jeypore (Orissa), were giving timely warning. The coastal agencies were also warned and danger signals were put up to warn the fishermen. And even where embankments had been constructed like in the Sunderbans area, the Member himself knows and he has mentioned this that hundreds of miles of length of embankment have been washed away and damaged. In West Bengal itself 525 kms. length of earthen embankments were completely washed away, 585 kms. of embankments were severely damaged. It cannot be said that embankments were not constructed where they were needed. But the fury of the cyclone was so great that these embankments could not have done much, there were high tidal waves as it happens after cyclones.

SHRI R. P. DAS: I would like to know whether the embankments can be strengthened.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Of course, all that will be done. Immediate relief was provided by the State government concerned, the State Government has a margin money and a very substantial amount of margin money. West Bengal has probably the

highest amount allocated from year to year—Rs. 13,60,00,000, as I have stated. They can immediately make use of this money and if they need further assistance from the Government of India, we provide 75 per cent of the total expenditure on relief measures in such cases when there are floods and cyclones. We are still awaiting a detailed report from the West Bengal Government. No memorandum has so far been submitted. The Government itself said that they are assessing the damage. I have said so in my statement and till such time we receive a report from the West Bengal Government, we cannot constitute a Central team for visiting the area.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, once again it is my painful duty to raise this Calling Attention on the matter of cyclones. It was only last year that we had a severe tornado in the eastern coast of India which had affected my own State of Orissa.

Sir, a study has been undertaken and it has been found that these tropical cyclones occur with monotonous regularity in the eastern coast of our country between the periods from April to June and from September to December due to geographical reasons. I would not like to go into the geographical aspect of the question because it has been discussed many times. The only one aspect I would like to point out is that these cyclones are the result of flow of air from high pressure belts to low pressure belts. This depends on the gradient and this is where I differ with the hon. Minister when he said that it cannot be averted. It can be minimised.

Sir, 10 years back, in 1971, there was a Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. Koteswaran, who had gone into the entire aspect that of meteorological organisation for detection and tracking of cyclonic storms, dissemination of meteorological warnings, distress mitigation measures.

[Shri P. K. Singh Deo]

community preparedness programme including public education programme, post-disaster measures, model cyclone plan; financial implications and a statutory body to implement it. Therefore, it raises a fundamental question that with the increasing economic activity and growing population in the coastal areas where adequate precautions have been taken according to this Koteswaran Committee, the havoc, the destruction, the devastation and the misery to the people had been minimised, as is evident and as is indicative of the Minister's reply. The Government of Orissa had taken adequate precautionary measures to warn the people and the people were evacuated from the low lying areas. This has resulted only in three deaths. But it had affected the salinisation of the areas of Mahakalpur, Kendrapara, Rajnagar, Kujang, Ersama, Tirtol, Pattamunde, Patkura, Chandbali, Dhamnagar, Basudevpur and Balasore causing damage to standing crop. Prof. Das stated that because of cyclone 93 people died in West Bengal. Out of these 93, 58 come from Sunderbans-- area of 24 South Parganas.

Recommendations have been given by the Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committee. They suggested certain steps which should be taken before cyclone, during cyclone and after cyclone. Have those been followed by both the State Governments or not? If those steps have been taken, what are the steps that have been taken by the respective State Governments?

In the programme and the recommendations given by Dr. Koteswaran, the Committee had recommended that there should be shelters, strong wind breakers, tide stoppers, dykes and bunds, afforestation on the coastal belt flood water storage reservoirs and drainage facilities. I would like to know whether both the State Governments have followed these instructions and had it been implemented or not.

Koteswaram Committee had identified that the State Governments with their meagre resources cannot divert scarce fund from development to giving relief and doles. The Central Government must come in a big way. It is suggested that there should be a Central Natural Calamities Fund which should be funded both by the Centre as well as the State. Has this been implemented or not? Have they set up a statutory body to see that it is implemented?

Have both the State Governments requested the Central Government for central assistance and for a central team? When is this central team going to be sent and what are the norms of this central assistance sought?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have already stated that standing instructions exist with the State Government for taking timely action. Hon. Member referred to the recommendations of the Committee headed by Shri Koteswaram. Most of the recommendations have been implemented. Even Warning Radars have been set up along the coast—at Paradeep Calcutta, Vishakhapatnam and other places. The Committee has mainly dealt with the relief operations to minimise the misery caused by cyclone. What I have stated was that the fury of this phenomenon cannot be reduced. I did not say that relief should not be provided. The hon. Member himself said that the Committee recommended for construction of shelter embankments, road and other things so that the damage caused by cyclone is reduced. The Committee has also recommended timely assistance in a big way by the Central Government. This is being provided. No separate fund has been created by the Central Government for the purpose because we never know how much fund will be needed. It is always open to the State Government to come to the Central Government and ask for assistance. I have already said that

7

could be gone into so as to minimise the effect of cyclone.

I want to know what steps both the State Governments have taken to implement those recommendations, whether he has got any information about that. If he does not have it, he can take us into confidence that he will lay the information on the Table later on. I would like to know whether the State Governments have adequately provided the facilities for minimising the effect of cyclone or not, as has been suggested by the Koteswaran Committee. While he was replying that the action has been taken to implement the recommendations of the Koteswaran Committee, I may point out that it had also recommended for a cyclone warning radio station at Paradip which he has not mentioned.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have even mentioned radar. He did not listen to me.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: That is what the Koteswaran Committee had suggested.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The hon. Member seems to be too much obsessed by the Koteshwaran Committee report. I have it before me. The measures suggested are not of a very abnormal type so far as relief is concerned. The construction of roads, the construction of shelters, the dredging of drains, the construction of embankments, all these things are normally done by every State Government, long before the Koteshwaran Committee was set up. That has always been done.

So far as West Bengal and Orissa Governments are concerned, the normal measures are taken up. These areas are prone to cyclone, as the hon. Member himself has said. Earlier also there was a cyclone. These areas are prone to typhoons, cyclones and very heavy winds.

The real question is that the main recommendation of this Committee

[Rao Birendra Singh]

relates to setting up of an efficient system for warning. That has been done. Radio has been used, even from Delhi, what to talk of Cuttack or Bhubaneswar or any other place. Radar stations have been set up. All radio stations all over Orissa and West Bengal have been issuing warnings. These warnings were issued to the port authorities. Repeatedly, time and again, they were warned sufficiently in advance, several times a day, day after day, right from 7th December onwards. The first time this phenomenon was detected somewhere off Madras coast on 5th December which was being tracked from that time onwards. But the track that was adopted by this particular cyclone this time has been somewhat abnormal. Right up to the time that it started....

SHRI R. P. DAS: Has the signal reached the people who are affected by the cyclone?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: It should reach the people. If it is broadcast by All India Radio and if the officers are informed why does it not reach the people? You should not expect Government of India to provide a radio set in every home in West Bengal and even if we do that, how can we ensure that the people will tune it at the proper time? (Interruptions)

Hon. Member from West Bengal himself has praised the efforts of the West Bengal Government though he was the person who raised this Call Attention Motion. He was himself very much satisfied that the West Bengal Government has taken timely action.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I may suggest to Mr. Das that his Government can provide a siren in those places.

SHRI R. P. DAS: Everything is provided.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. They have provided everything.

(Interruptions)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: From the beginning, warnings are issued to warn the people that a danger is expected. Then the increasing danger is also intimated to the people. When the first warning is issued, people are advised to listen to the radio. That is what the first warning does. After that, they are expected to keep a track of it.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK
(Cuttack): After hearing from the Minister that the Committee's recommendations are being carried out and that clear warnings are given, still, I feel that nothing could have been done in the present circumstances to save the people from the cyclone.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Has the Chief Minister taken timely action there?

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
Oh, Yes! In the age of science, we cannot have a feeling that we resign to our fate, feeling that no permanent measures can be taken specially to meet the cyclone and other natural calamities to save the people from the repeated fury.

The studies made for the last 100 years show that some areas are prone to cyclone. May I know from the Hon. Minister what steps have been taken to appoint a High Power Committee to make a special and scientific study of this problem?

According to reports, a system has been evolved in Latin America where people have succeeded in finding a solution to this problem of cyclone and tornado which occurs repeatedly in those parts of the world. This may please be studied to see if any possible action can be taken in this country.

In this context, I may say that thousands of people died in a severe cyclone which occurred in Orissa in the year, 1966. It was decided at that time to create coastal plantation in the 480 KM stretch of coastal belt of

Orissa. May I know from the Hon. Minister what steps had been taken for monitoring this programme and helping the State Government?

[Rao Birendra Singh]

village level as to what is to be done in the case of floods or cyclone or other disasters like this. As soon as reports are received from Orissa and West Bengal, we shall certainly send central teams to those States and see what relief is required. I have said that 75 per cent of the expenditure incurred and to be met by the Government of India is a substantial amount of assistance in natural calamities....

AN HON. MEMBER: What type of team will it be?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Not a parliamentary team.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: He has not answered my question in full, Sir. It was decided after the cyclone of 1966 to create plantation in the coastal belt of Orissa for a stretch of 480 km. I wanted to know what steps the Government have taken to monitor the work of the programme and help the State Government.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I will send her suggestions to the Chief Minister of Orissa.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please extend your helping hand. He will send it to the Chief Minister.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) :
उपाध्यक्ष जी, सबसे पहले मैं समुद्री तूफान से पीड़ित उड़ीसा और पश्चिमी बंगाल के लाखों परिवारों के प्रति अपने दल की तरफ से सहानुभूति व्यक्त करता हूँ और जो लोग इस तूफान में मारे गये हैं, उनके प्रति संवेदना प्रकट करता हूँ ।

उपाध्यक्ष जी, उड़ीसा के दो जिले बालासोर और कटक इससे बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुए और पश्चिमी बंगाल के मिदनापुर और चौबोस-परगना जिले प्रभावित हुए और सुन्दरबन का एक-तिहाई हिस्सा तो

बिल्कुल ही प्रभावित हो गया । इस तरह की प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों का सामना हमारे देश की जनता को हर साल किसी-न-किसी कोने में करना पड़ता है । वक्तव्य में जिन बातों की चर्चा की गई है, उनसे एक बात स्पष्ट हो जाती है कि पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार ने फौरन कुछ कार्य किया जिससे कि कुछ राहत मिली—यह उस सरकार की एफिशियेंसी का द्योतक है । दूसरी तरफ अभी तक केन्द्रीय सरकार स्थिति का जायजा ही ले रही है । इसलिए पश्चिम बंगाल की सरकार ने जो किया उसके लिए तो हमें धन्यवाद देना चाहिए कि फौरन वह मैदान-ए-जंग में चली गई और अपना काम करना शुरू कर दिया ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Every State does that, Mr. Shastri.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैं आपको यह भी बताना चाहता हूँ कि 1500 वर्ग किलोमीटर का क्षेत्र पश्चिम बंगाल में प्रभावित है । इन क्षेत्रों के सारे ट्यूब-वैल और तालाबों का पानी नमकीन हो गया है । 52 हजार एकड़ जमीन में धान की लहलहाती हुई फसल समाप्त हो गई है और सात हजार मकान पानी में बह गये हैं, पता नहीं वे कहाँ हैं । इतनी बड़ी प्राकृतिक विपत्ति फिर भी सरकार कह रही है कि हम सेण्ट्रल टीम तब भेजेंगे, जब मांग होगी । यह भी कहा गया है कि उड़ीसा के पास 8 करोड़ 71 लाख और पश्चिम बंगाल के पास 13 करोड़ 60 लाख सीमान्त राशि, मार्जिनल एमाउण्ट मौजूद है । क्या आपका कोई कर्तव्य नहीं बनता ? क्या आपकी कोई ड्यूटी नहीं है कि इतनी बड़ी विपत्ति के समय अपनी सहानुभूति ले कर उनके पास दौड़े जायें और कहें कि हम इतनी मदद आप को देते हैं, आप और मजबूती से काम करो ? आप प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं—मैं इसको उचित नहीं मानता । आप को फौरन उनके बिना मांगे...

13 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: But, the warning was given.

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : बिना मांगे हुए ?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : हां, बिना मांगे हुए, यह आपका कर्तव्य है। पश्चिम बंगाल और उड़ीसा हिन्दुस्तान के ज़िम्मे के टुकड़े हैं, लेकिन आप उन के कहने की प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं। वे तो अपनी जान-कारी इकट्ठी करके आप को भेजेंगे, लेकिन आप पहले से कुछ कीजिए। अभी तक आप ने इस में कोताही की है, नाकामयाब रहे हैं। अभी भी समय है, उनकी मदद के लिए फौरन जाइए

आचार्य भगवान देव (अजमेर) : आप हो आये हैं ?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : हो आया हूं, अभी बोल रहा हूं। आप ने सुना है कि 93 व्यक्ति मारे गये हैं, गैर-सरकारी खबरों के अनुसार 175 लोग मारे गये हैं, लेकिन वास्तव में कितने लोग मरे हैं इसका पता चल जायगा, सूचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है। यह बहुत भारी विपत्ति है

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : आप के पास तो पहले ही आ गई है।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अभी तो बोल रहा हूं, राव साहब। आप ने कहा कि उड़ीसा में समुद्री तूफान 8 दिसम्बर को आया

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : नहीं ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : आप अपने बयान में देखिए। अखबारों में भी यह खबर आई है। बंगाल में 10 दिसम्बर को आया

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैं यही बात उठा रहा हूं। जिस दिन तूफान आया, उसी दिन वार्निंग देने का क्या मतलब है ? वार्निंग कितने दिन पहले देने का कायदा है ? बंगाल में 10 ता० को तूफान आया—अगर आपकी बात को मान लें, तो उड़ीसा में ता० 8 को वार्निंग देने का क्या मतलब है, उड़ीसा के लोग इतनी जल्दी नहीं जा सकते थे, उनको कहां आसरा मिलता ? आप के यहां कोई नियम होगा कि इतने दिन पहले तूफान की चेतावनी दो जानो चाहिए, सूचना दो जानो चाहिए, उस के बारे में आपने कुछ नहीं बताया। आपने कहा कि हम ने सूचना दे दी, रेडियो सुनने वालों ने नहीं सुनी तो हम क्या करें। सब के पास रेडियो नहीं हैं। जिन इलाकों में तूफान आया, उन इलाकों के लोग निर्धन हैं, क्या आप ने उन को कोई रेडियो दिया है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा—क्या आप इन कोस्टल एरियाज में जहां तूफान का खतरा रहता है, सरकार की तरफ से रेडियो सेट्स सप्लाई करेंगे, कम से कम जितने कम्युनिटी सेण्टर्स देहातों में हैं या शहरों में हैं वहां सरकार की तरफ से मुफ्त रेडियो देंगे ?

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : उसके बाद क्या आप जिम्मेदारों लेंगे कि वे टाइम पर रेडियो सुनें ?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : लेंगे, पहले आप रेडियो दोजिए, फिर उसकी जवाब-देही लूंगा, वरना रेडियो-सेट्स आप को वापस कर दूंगा। अगर आप सचमुच चाहते हैं तो ऐसी व्यवस्था करनी होगी। इतना कह देने से कि लोग सुनते नहीं हैं काम नहीं चलेगा। किस चीज से सुनें ? गिलास होगा नहीं, तो पानी कैसे पीयेंगे, क्या चुल्हू से ?

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : पी संकते हैं ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : वह तो मजबूरी में पीते हैं ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Suggest this to the State Government. Both of them combined together can get the radio.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: I am suggesting this to the Central Government because we are talking here in the Lok Sabha—not in the Assembly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I say both combined together can supply the radio.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: We are talking in Lok Sabha. So the Central Government should do this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am only suggesting this because this is a Concurrent Subject.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : उपाध्यक्ष जी, दूसरी बात जो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि जो हर स्टेट में नेचुरल कैलेमिटीज एक्ट हैं लेकिन उस से सब राज्यों का काम पूरा-पूरा नहीं चलता है, तो क्या जब कोई नेचुरल कैलेमिटीज हो, बाढ़ हो, मुन्नाइ हो, तूफान हो, समुद्री तूफान हो या कोई और विपत्ति आए, ऐसे मौकों पर तुम्हारे केन्द्रीय सहायता वहाँ पहुँच जाए, इस तरह का कोई कानून बनाने का विचार रखते हैं ताकि आप को फिर सरकार को एफिशियन्सी का इन्तज़ार न करना पड़े। बंगाल की सरकार की एफिशियन्सी तो आप ने देख ली कि वे फौरन वहाँ बले गये और बहुत जगहों पर लोगों को सहायता कर रहे हैं लेकिन उड़ीसा के बारे में खुद बयान में आप ने कहा है कि उड़ीसा में यह बहुत कम चीज हुई है क्योंकि वहाँ तूफान का जोर आप के मुका-

बिक कम है। पतानहीं, वहाँ के लोग इस के बारे में क्या समझते हैं लेकिन आप ने कह दिया है कि वहाँ मौतें बहुत कम हुई हैं और केवल 3 आदमी मरे हैं। इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप ऐसा कोई कानून बनाने का विचार रखते हैं जिससे ऐसे मौकों पर फौरन केन्द्रीय सरकार राज्य की मदद के लिए पहुँच जाए।

एक और सवाल है जिस को माननीय सदस्य ने भी उठाया था लेकिन आप ने उस का जवाब नहीं दिया और कह दिया कि मैं मुख्य मंत्री को बता दूंगा उड़ीसा में।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : उन्हें दिक्कत है, तो हम बता देंगे।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : उन्होंने केवल उड़ीसा के लिए पूछा था। मैं उड़ीसा, बंगाल और दूसरे जितने तटवर्ती समुद्र के किनारे बसे हुए शहर हैं, जहाँ पर तूफान आने का खतरा रहता है, उन के बारे में पूछना चाहता हूँ। समुद्र के किनारे जो गाँव या शहर हैं तमिलनाडु में हो या केरल के अन्दर हो, पश्चिम बंगाल में हो या उड़ीसा के अन्दर हो या आन्ध्र प्रदेश में हो, ऐसे तटवर्ती इलाकों के लिए आप के पास कोई एफोरेस्टेशन की योजना है या नहीं? अगर है, तो क्या है और इस दिशा में आप ने राज्य सरकारों को अब तक कौन सी मदद की है?

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, शास्त्री जी के पास तो बयौरा बहुत मालूम होता है लेकिन वह अभी तक हमारे पास पहुँचा नहीं है। मकान कितने गिरे, उन की तादाद भी बताई, खेती का नुकसान हुआ, कितने एकड़ रकबा खराब हुआ, कितने तालाबों के अन्दर

पानी खारा हुआ, यह सब उन्होंने बताया लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि मेरे पास अभी इतने डिटेल्स नहीं हैं और अभी तक पश्चिम बंगाल से पूरी सूचना नहीं मिली है । 13 करोड़ 60 लाख रुपये हम इसी काम के लिए पहले दे देते हैं ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या यह पर्याप्त है ?

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : इतना पैसा उन के पास है । वे अगर इस को खर्च करना चाहें तो फौरन कर सकते हैं । इस के बाद इस से ज्यादा जितना खर्च करेंगे, उस में फिर 75 फ्रीक्वेंसी भारत सरकार देती है ग्राण्ट, नान-प्लान में । तो माननीय शास्त्री जी के यह समझने की बात है कि जो पैसा सरकार के पास है, वह इसी काम के लिए है । जब तक वह खर्च न हो जाए और उस का हिशाब-किताब भी पूरा लेते हैं, बगैर मांगे और पैसा कैसे दे दिया जाए । कोई तरीका होता है पैसा देने का ।

यह भी शास्त्री जी ने गलत समझा कि 8 तारीख को तूफान आ गया । मैंने यह नहीं कहा था । मैंने तो बताया है कि तूफान 10 तारीख को आया । . . . (बयवधान) . . . यह उड़ीसा के नजदीक से निकला और उड़ीसा के अन्दर तूफान नहीं गया लेकिन साहिल के इलाके में यह था ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : इनके बयान में यह है कि सिर्फ उड़ीसा सरकार से मिली रिपोर्ट के अनुसार इस महीने की 8 तारीख को सायं 5.30 बजे बंगाल की खाड़ी में भयंकर समुद्री तूफान आने का पता चला ।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : बंगाल की खाड़ी उड़ीसा में है क्या ? बंगाल की खाड़ी और है ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : उड़ीसा की सरकार ने यह खबर दी है ।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : बंगाल की खाड़ी में तो 5 तारीख को आ रहा था । बंगाल की खाड़ी में 5 तारीख को देखा गया । बंगाल की खाड़ी और उड़ीसा में फर्क है ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैंने इनके बयान से पढ़ा है और आप ने बयान दिया है उड़ीसा सरकार के माध्यम से ।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : वह आप हिन्दी में पढ़ लें या अंग्रेजी में पढ़ लें । उसका समझाने का मतलब इतना ही है कि बंगाल की खाड़ी में तूफान कहीं भी हो, वह उड़ीसा में नहीं था । उड़ीसा के तट के पास से तूफान 10 तारीख की शाम को निकला है और 10 तारीख की रात को बंगाल में पहुंचा है । 10 तारीख को ही वहां नुकसान हुआ । 7 तारीख को दिल्ली से वार्निंग भेजी गई जिसका सारा ब्यौरा मैंने दिया है । उसका टाइम भी बताया है कि किस तरह से रेडियो के जरिए और मेटेरोलोजिकल डिपार्टमेंट के जरिए से डिस्ट्रिक्ट अथोरिटीज को कहा गया और लोगों को कहा गया । 7 तारीख के बाद से वार्निंग ही वार्निंग चलती रही है । पानी भी वहां पहुंच रहा है । जहां पानी खारा हो गया है वहां मीठा पानी पहुंचाने के लिए कलकत्ता पोर्ट ट्रस्ट नौकाओं की सहायता कर रहा है और इस तरह से मीठे पानी का इन्तजाम किया जा रहा है ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : कोई सेप्ट्रल कानून इस बारे में बनाइयेगा या नहीं ?

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : तुफान आने से पहले कानून बनाएं ? इसके लिए सारा इन्तजाम मौजूद है । आप सिर्फ इतना समझने की कृपा करें कि जो पैसा सरकार के पास है वह तुरन्त सहायता के लिए होता है ताकि उस पैसे से तुरन्त कामकाज चले । उसका ब्यौरा जब आता है तब फिर आगे सोचा जाता है ।

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: In this Statement, the hon. Minister has expressed, on behalf of the Government of India, their sorrow at the calamity. My first question is this: On the 10th and 11th, West Bengal and Orissa were ravaged by these cyclones. On the 12th itself, the Prime Minister of the country was in West Bengal. She addressed the public of West Bengal in Shantiniketan. The Prime Minister of the land was right in the territory which has been so badly affected. Is it not unprecedented that she made a speech dealing with voters' list and political murders and, so on, and not a single word of sympathy to these cyclone-affected people of West Bengal and Orissa? Is it not something which is unprecedented?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are many occasions when you can criticise; not on this. Please put your question.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: She is making a political speech only and she is not putting the question. That should not go on record.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You should not be utilising such an opportunity. You may please put a question. 90 lives have been lost. Don't politicise the issue.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: The Prime Minister has not expressed a word of sympathy to these cyclone-affected people....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please put the question.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: In her speech there was not a single word of solace to these people. My second question is this: It may be an inconvenient question. Much has been said about the Radio. There are Radios in all parts of the country. All the radios were tuned in on the 12th. People were eager to hear about the events; but they did not hear anything over their Radios. This is a serious situation, Sir. Secondly, I want to know this: I know the Minister has not got the audacity to answer this question. Even then, I have the audacity of asking a question. I am totally dissatisfied with the statement made by the hon. Minister. Is it a fact that full damage has not yet been assessed but it is being assessed? In the statement, in Para 6 it is stated that according to the State Government 93 lives have been lost and nearly 20 lakhs of people have been affected. Now, so far as we can find in the press, the Irrigation Minister of West Bengal has stated that only in South 24 Parganas district, 20 lakhs of people have been affected and 93 lives have been lost. Now, how is it that that figure has been taken for West Bengal as a whole? In Midnapore district alone, at least 20 lakhs of people have been affected and the word "affected" has a wider meaning. In Howrah district also, thousands of people have been affected. It is not only that many lives have been lost but the means of livelihood of lakhs of people have been lost. The main cash crop in many of the districts was already damaged heavily in the last flood, that we had in 1978. It actually took away everything and after a lot of hard working and incurring indebtedness the peasants have been able to retrieve slowly before another havoc like the recent one could take place. It is not just a question of 'given some immediate relief'. Immediate relief should be rendered to those who have been uprooted and whose means of livelihood has been lost. Unless immediate relief is rendered, there would be very serious repercussions and untold miseries would be faced by the

people in the near future. This is the area which was affected in 1978 also and the people there have lost everything. That being the case, I think that the Central Government has not studied the gravity of the situation. Whatever information has been given by the West Bengal Government I see in the Statement. But my question is: how will you expedite the whole exercise of rendering help immediately because the problem is very serious? If it is a question of visiting the place by a Central team, it will take some time and after a lot of higgly-haggle an assessment of the damage will be made. But in this process there will be a lot of delay. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how this entire process of rendering help immediately would be undertaken so that the affected people get some solace.

My next point is that this margin money is not only for cyclone-affected people but for drought-affected areas also.

AN HON. MEMBER: Drought occurred in Orissa.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Drought has occurred in some parts of my State also. Margin money is not for this particular calamity. The State Government has made an assessment that Rs. 20 crores will be necessary for carrying out repairs in the dykes and banks. I would request the Government that this repair work should be taken up immediately.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: As I have already said, the State Government is expected to provide immediate relief after such disasters. If the West Bengal Government has not done it, I am sorry to know that and we shall find out.... (Interruptions). You said that immediate relief has not been given.... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He says that the West Bengal Government has got to do it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will not allow this. He is replying to Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee. Nobody else except she can ask any clarification. You must read the rules. We are bound by the rules.

(Interruptions)**

Please do not record,

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Hon. Member, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has made a political speech. On the one hand, she tried to say that the West Bengal Government had taken very speedy action, on the other hand, she has tried to give an impression that immediate relief has not been provided to the people.... (interruptions). It is the duty of the State Government to provide immediate relief to the affected area. If they have not done it, we shall find out, and we shall go into it.... (interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not record anything except the Minister.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: You cannot blow hot and cold at the same time. Has the immediate relief been provided or not? (Interruptions). What I have stated with regard to the damage is on the basis of information provided by the West Bengal Government. I cannot go on the basis of reports in the press. My statement is based on reports from West Bengal Government. These are not my own facts and figures. Whenever we get more information from West Bengal Government and we find that there is a case for sending a Central team to visit the area and we are satisfied that the damage as shown by West Bengal Government

(Shri Rao Birendra Singh)

is more than what could be compensated or what can be met within the marginal money of Rs. 13.60 crores, we shall certainly take the required action. Although some part of this money may have been spent by Government on certain other matters, some money is expected to be with the Government of West Bengal at the time. Unless we know that they need a particular assistance over and above that marginal money and they cannot meet the situation within that, we cannot send a Central team of our own. I have said it earlier and the hon. Member should be satisfied with it. The Central Government is getting information; we are awaiting for a full report from West Bengal and it is never done and it cannot be done that we should send our own machinery to provide relief to the people of West Bengal or Orissa or any other place. It is the duty of the State Government and we have laid down norms under which they should provide relief immediately. There is a drill also for that purpose. We have given full and detailed instructions for meeting situations in such circumstances and calamities.... (Interruptions).

I would plead with the hon. Members not to try and blow up a thing out of proportion. That does not help a particular State. We have got to keep the facts in mind. The West Bengal people have been affected. I myself admit that the damage in West Bengal is more than the total damage, loss of life and other things in Orissa and we shall certainly try to be very just and fair and liberal to West Bengal. But don't try to take political advantage out of this. That will not help you.

13.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till twenty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी (हिसार) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय दो मेंबर आ रहे थे। उनको आने से रोक दिया गया। (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not allowing him.

Mr. Venkataraman to make a statement.

(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not record any thing.

(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not correct. Anyway, do not do like this.

(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is a way of putting the matters. They have given notice now. Just now they have showed me.

(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen. Please wait. They should have gone and seen the Speaker, and he would have permitted. Then I would have permitted him also.

(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They do not follow the procedure.

(Interruptions) *

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Please, Mr. Bagri can coolly explain what the issue is, what developments have taken place. It concerns the entry into the House. One minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If Mr. Bagri had seen the Speaker, it would have been all right.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, लोक सभा के डेमोक्रेटिक सोशलिस्ट पार्टी और लोकदल के दो मेम्बर पार्लिया-मेंटरी आफिस, एनेक्सी में से आ रहे थे, मगर पुलिस ने उनको नहीं आने दिया और कहा कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर का लंच है, इसलिए इधर से नहीं जा सकते। वे लोक सभा को आ रहे थे। लोक सभा के मेम्बर को लोक सभा को आते हुए रोकना बुरी बात है, गलत बात है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mani Ram Bagri, I will look into it. I said I will look into it. Now, Mr. Venkata-raman to make a statement.

14.33 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (KERALA), 1981-82

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English version) showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Kerala for 1981-82.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): Earlier it was Assam. Now it is Kerala! (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now matters under Rule 377.

14.35 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) RAJADHYAKSH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON STATE ELECTRICITY BOARDS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO INADEQUATE POWER SUPPLY IN MAHARASHTRA.

श्रीमती ऊषा प्रकाश चौधरी (अमरावली) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, महाराष्ट्र में उद्योगों एवम् किसानों को बिजली कम मात्रा में दी जा रही है, जिससे औद्योगिक उत्पादन तथा खेती पर असर पड़ रहा है।

पम्प के माध्यम से खेतों की सिंचाई की जाती है, लेकिन राज्य विद्युत बोर्ड द्वारा बिजली सिर्फ चार पांच घण्टे के लिए दी जाती है, जिससे कृषक पूर्ण रूप से फसल प्राप्त करने में सफलता प्राप्त नहीं कर पाते, उनकी पैदावार कम होती है। इस तरह उनका आर्थिक बोझ भी अधिक बढ़ जाता है और पारिवारिक कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

मेरे ही जिले मेलघाट में, जो कि एक आदिवासी पहाड़ी क्षेत्र है, तथा आस-पास के इलाकों में बिजली के खंबे तो सरकार ने लगा दिए हैं, लेकिन बिजली न होने की वजह से वहां अंधकार ही रहता है। इसी प्रकार जितने भी पहाड़ी इलाके हैं, महाराष्ट्र में वहां भी स्वतन्त्रता के बाद बिजली की सुविधाएं तो दे दी हैं, लेकिन बिजली ठीक प्रकार से पहुंचती नहीं है।

आदिवासियों तथा अल्प म-धारकों को शासन की तरफ से पम्प वगैरह लगाने के लिए सबसिडी तो दी गई है, लेकिन अगर विद्युत प्राप्त न हो, तो सिंचाई का कार्य वैसा का वैसा ही पड़ा रहता है। भारत एक कृषि-प्रधान देश है और यहां के अधिकतर लोग खेती पर निर्भर करते हैं। उनका जीवन-स्तर तभी सुधर सकता है, जब कि उन्हें बिजली वगैरह की सुविधाएं प्राप्त होती रहें और वे अपनी खेती से पूरी फसल प्राप्त कर सकें।

मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करती हूं कि वह राज्य बिजली बोर्डों के काम-काज के बारे में राजाध्यक्ष समिति की सिफारिशों पर तत्काल कार्रवाई करे, ताकि इनके काम-काज में सुधार हो सके। बिजली के उत्पादन और वितरण में केन्द्र सरकार को अधिकाधिक ध्यान देना चाहिए, जिससे कृषि और औद्योगिक विकास को गति मिल सके।