

[Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh]

weather conditions from the 16th evening and bringing in heavy rains. This cyclonic storm struck the Masulipatam Kakinada coast on the 19th November, 1977 and in accordance with the information obtained from the State Government caused widespread havoc in the coastal districts of Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna East Godavari and West Godavari. The storm rose in intensity from 7.30 p. m. on the 19th and caused high tidal waves in the Masulipatam and Chirala areas of Krishna district. The wind speed ranged from 100 to 150 km per hour and there has been heavy rainfall in the affected areas on the 19th and the 20th November, 1977. Repalli Taluk of Guntur district had been completely cut off and a helicopter was given to the Collector to reach this area.

In accordance with the latest information the State Headquarters have received reports of loss of 628 lives in the district of Guntur, 223 in the district of Krishna, 23 in the district of Prakasam and five each in the districts of East Godavari and West Godavari. One death was reported from Nellore district giving a total of 885. Most of the deaths are reported to be due to house collapses. These figures are only tentative and the State Government are anticipating further reports.

It was also indicated by the State Government that there has been extensive loss of standing and harvested paddy crop and a large number of houses and huts have been destroyed or damaged. Sugarcane, tobacco and other plantation crops also have been very badly damaged and trees have been uprooted. About a lakh of people are feared to have been rendered homeless in the town of Guntur alone. Road, railway, telephonic and telegraphic communications have been affected and this is telling upon the relief operations. The State Government have deputed four senior officers for supervising and co-

ordinating relief operations in the four districts of Krishna, East Godavari, West Godavari and Guntur.

The Chief Minister accompanied by the Chief Secretary and other senior officers have left Hyderabad for aerial survey this morning. It is understood that the State Government are taking all necessary action for relief and the Defence Services are offering all possible assistance to the Civil authorities and the State Government are fully satisfied in this regard. They are also satisfied that adequate advance notice about the cyclonic storm had been given and all possible precautions had been taken. No shortage of foodgrain has so far been reported and the needs of the State Government in this regard will be fully met. Difficulty is being experienced due to failure of electricity which is also affecting drinking water supply. The financial position of the State Government is satisfactory. The State Government is likely to approach for Advance Plan Assistance after the full assessment of the damages is available in a week's time. In accordance with the information available, the cyclonic storm has abated though in certain areas aerial operations were not possible yesterday afternoon because of bad weather. Further information is being ascertained. The Central Government is keeping continuous watch on the situation and is in touch with the State Government. The Ministries of Health, Education and Social Welfare and Engery have been alerted to render all possible assistance to the State Government. Every effort is being made to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

12.24 hrs.

RE: FAST BY NEO-BUDDHISTS

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola):
Sir, I want to request you to allow a discussion in the House on the situation arising out of the fast undertaken by the leaders of Buddhist followers of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. It is the seventh day of their fast. Their condition is very critical. We want

a discussion in the House on this very serious matter. A Calling' Attention notice has been given. But that is not enough. Kindly allow half an hour or an hour for a discussion on this serious matter. We want to know the attitude of the Government on the whole question. It is a policy matter. I would request you to take the opinion of the House and fix some time for a discussion. I hope the Prime Minister will not deny a discussion on this very important question on this.

SHRI SAUGATA RAY (Barrack-pore): The Deputy-Speaker of Maharashtra Assembly is also on a fast in regard to the matter of granting all facilities to neo-Buddhists. We have given a Calling Attention notice on that. But so far no discussion has been allowed in the House on their fast. It is a very serious matter. I would request you to allow a discussion in this important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition has given notice of a Calling Attention. It will be taken up.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN (Satara): Sir, I gave a Calling Attention notice in the last week. It is supposed to be a Calling Attention notice on a matter of urgent public importance. Now, again, you are wanting us to wait for another two days. In the meanwhile, I would request the Government—the Prime Minister is present here—to agree to an early discussion. These people are on fast for the last seven days. Some of them are very old people. In order to end their agony, can we not agree to a discussion in the course of this afternoon so that we will be able to know the Government's policy and we will be able to persuade these people to give up the fast? It is not a question of confrontation. It is not in that spirit I am asking. In fact, they have also sympathies for them. We have also sympathies for them. Certainly, those people feel that the road has been blocked for their further progress. I would request the Prime

Minister to agree to a detailed discussion in the course of this afternoon so that the Calling Attention notice may also not be necessary.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: The Deputy Speaker of Maharashtra Assembly is also fasting.....

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): The fast of a Deputy-Speaker or any other person is equally important. I do not want to consider a Deputy-Speaker fasting as more important than another person fasting. But this fasting, I am afraid, has not been undertaken for a cause which I can immediately advocate. I have had discussions with the leaders of neo-Buddhists not once but several times. The whole problem is that for twenty years they are out of the Scheduled Castes because they have converted themselves into another religion. That is why they ceased to be members of the Scheduled Castes. They now want to be considered as the Scheduled Caste members.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: Not precisely.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: This is what they told me. They want to be considered as Scheduled Caste members. If they want the same facilities as the Scheduled Caste members, it means that they must also be considered as Scheduled Caste members.

I have already told them that they can be considered backward class and whatever is allowed to Backward classes will be admissible to them. I have told them that. But they insist on concessions now being given to Scheduled Castes and therefore, it would not be possible for me to do so. I never said I am not going to discuss the question with them at any time. I am prepared to discuss it with them whenever they want to discuss. But that does not mean that I can hold out a promise that I accept the demand.

(Shri Morarji Desai)

Then I have never refused to discuss it at any time with anybody. But under pressure of this kind, I cannot discuss it.

(Interruptions)

श्रीमती सुनाल गोरे (बम्बई उत्तर)
 अध्यक्ष महोदय प्राज्ञ हाउस में डिस्कशन करने हम इस प्राबलम को सल्व कर सकते हैं और किसी नतीजे पर पहुँच सकते हैं, भेरे छयाल में लीडर घाऊ दि प्रापोजीशन भी यह बात नहीं मानते हैं। मैं भी श्री गवई और श्री कुमारे से मिलने गई थी। मैंने यह समझा कि उन लोगों की यह राय हो गई है कि डिस्कशन हैज बिन क्लोज्ड, दि इस्पू हैज बिन क्लोज्ड। लेकिन श्री प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि

The issue is not closed, it is open for discussion. He is prepared to discuss it at any time.

इसलिए यह जरूरी है कि पहले तो सभी लोग इन दोनों को अपना फास्ट वापस लेने के लिए बिनती करे, और फिर इस सवाल पर जरूर इस सदन में डिस्कशन होना चाहिये। यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है और पूरा सदन इसको डिस्कस करना चाहता है। यह देखना चाहिये कि कैसे कोई मार्ग निकाला जा सकता है। जब प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि बि इस्पू हैज नाट क्लोज्ड, तब पहले हम उन लोगों को अपना फास्ट वापस लेने के लिए बिनती करे और बाद में इस विषय पर चर्चा करे।

SHRI SAUGATA ROY It is unfortunate that the lady Member has taken such an unkind view of the thing. I want to see these fasting people this morning after I have given all these notices. They do not say that the issue is closed. If the Prime Minister, after a discussion in the House, makes an appeal to them that they withdraw the fast they will consider (Interruptions) Why was he saying

that the issue was closed, nothing more could be discussed?

MR SPEAKER They have never said that (Interruptions)

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU (Katwa) We want to discuss it in the House

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER I cannot allow a discussion unless both sides are agreed today. If the Prime Minister is agreeable for a discussion today, I have no objection.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI I am not agreeable to a discussion today in the House.

AN HON MEMBER Tomorrow

SHRI MORARJI DESAI Not tomorrow either. I am prepared to discuss it with them if they want to discuss. It is on that issue they have gone on hunger strike.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE Why are you depriving the House of the opportunity to discuss it today?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI It cannot be decided at present in the House. Therefore, it is no use discussing it. It is not a problem which can be decided in one hour or two hours.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER I cannot do anything more (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE This kind of attitude will not do. Why was he saying? (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER He is not bound to give you the reasons (Interruption)

SHRI VASANT SATHE We will not discuss it in the House. Don't you think this is not a matter between the Prime Minister and those people

alone? It is not a private matter We are equally concerned We want to know the policy and the attitude of the Government Why is he depriving us ? (Interruptions) Then we will walk out

MR SPEAKER What is all this every time? (Interruptions)

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN When the Prime Minister says that the question is important enough and that he is willing to discuss it himself Why is he depriving this House of this opportunity to discuss this issue? (Interruptions) Let us discuss it (Interruptions)

SHRI MORARJI DESAI There is no question of discussing it in the House A discussion like this is not going to solve the question in one hour or two hours Therefore, I do not want to go into a discussion like this

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER I am on my legs Please sit down Before me, there is only one Call Attention I allowed that Call Attention I am going to have it on Wednesday There is no difficulty There is no other motion before me and therefore nothing arises (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE We want a discussion on this today (Interruptions)

SHRI MORARJI DESAI Already under an item on the agenda the problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being discussed, and they can discuss this also along with these if they want (Interruptions)

SHRI C M STEPHEN (Idukki) This is a matter of public importance That, he has conceded because he has said that it has been pending for the last 20 years. It cannot be denied that it is a matter of urgent public

importance You have admitted the call-attention notice on the basis that this is a matter of urgent public importance Otherwise, the call-attention notice would not have been admitted Now the only thing is this In the case of call-attention only the persons who have given notice can participate but here the House as a whole must spell out their point of view Because it is a matter of urgent public importance I would request you not to confine it only to the persons who have given notice of call-attention but give an opportunity to the whole House to go into this matter so that the other Members also can express their views and the Government may be persuaded to formulate their views on this particular matter

MR SPEAKER You are quite aware that there are procedures for that If you had given a proper notice that would have been considered

SHRI C M STEPHEN There are ample precedents where a particular motion has taken a different form—has been converted into another A regular notice for that purpose is not necessary If Government

MR SPEAKER They do not agree If they agree, there would be no difficulty (Interruptions)

SHRI C M STEPHEN The only question is whether this is a matter which deserves to be considered by the House, whether this is a matter of sufficient public importance to deserve the attention of the House—and not merely a statement by the Government I submit, Sir, this is a matter which deserves the attention of the House

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH) Although, as the Prime Minister has just now said this question can be discussed under items 17 and 18 of the agenda, if my friends sitting on the Opposite so desire, I am prepared

(Shri Chara Singh)

to make a statement this very evening on this question—on the call-attention motion.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: No That will not do.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: That is a different thing. The call-attention will be confined only to a statement by the Government and to the persons who have given notice of the call-attention. It does not give an opportunity to the whole House to discuss this matter. Now that it has been conceded that this is a matter of urgent public importance, the House should be permitted to discuss it today.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am begging of you: Please consider the seriousness of the matter. It is their seventh day of fast. I have seen how weak they have become. Why are you objecting to the discussion. There are persons on your side who also want to express themselves on this. Hear the views of all sections of the House, have a discussion so that you can formulate your policy. Do not make it a prestige issue. (Interruptions).

SHRI SAUGATA ROY. Let us have a one-hour discussion today in the afternoon. This cannot be delayed. The people who are on strike are over 60 years old. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing any further discussion on this unless both sides agree. If you want a question to be answered today, I am willing to have that this afternoon. Mr. Home Minister are you willing to have a discussion?

SHRI CHARAN SINGH: Only a statement

MR. SPEAKER: All right, I am allowing a question in the afternoon. I have given my decision finally.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Let us have a discussion; please do not make it a party issue

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN (Cannore): The point is that the whole House wants to have a discussion on this matter. Many people have said that

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, you have more discretion. Why are you surrendering your discretion to them?

MR. SPEAKER: I am surrendering neither to you nor to them.

श्री चरम सिंह मैं आपकी इजाजत से कुछ भर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। मेरा निवेदन है कि मुझे मालूम हुआ है कि विरोध पक्ष की तरफ से कालिग प्रटेन्शन मोशन का नोटिस आया हुआ है, आपने उसको एलाउ कर दिया है परसों (बुधवार) के लिए लोकन जो हल्ला-बुल्लु हो रहा है श्रीग मौलाना साठे जिस तरीके से बोल रहे हैं, मैं आज ही शाम को उस पर बयान देने के लिए तैयार हूँ। (अवधान) उस पर क्लेरिफिकेशन के लिए आप कुछ प्रश्न करना चाहे तो उसके लिए भी मैं तैयार हूँ। मेरी समझ में नहीं आया कि झगडा क्या है? यह दूसरी बात है कि कल को सुरबी आ जाये, आप वाक-आउट करे वैसे हम तो आपको वाक-आउट करने से रोकेंगे लेकिन आपका प्रिविलेज है, आप करना ही चाहें तो कौन रोक सकता है।

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: It is not a technical question, but unfortunately, they are making it so. It is a very urgent question, a question which is affecting the depressed people, people who are backward and suffering in many matters. (Interruptions). If we can manage it, we can also have the calling attention motion for more than an hour. It is really in the fitness of things that you Mr. Speaker, Sir, use your discretion and allow discussion for one hour

so that those Members who want to participate can participate in this. Why are you making it a technical question?

MR SPEAKER The decision is that there will be a call attention motion this afternoon.

SHRI VASANT SATHE We do not agree to this call attention proposition.

MR SPEAKER If you do not agree.

SHRI VASANT SATHE Then we will walk out.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF MADHU DANDAYAT) will walk out alone?

12.40 hrs.

SMITH STANISTREET AND COMPANY LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) BILL*

पेट्रोलियम तथा रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र) मैं श्री हेमवती नन्दन हुगुणा की ओर से प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि लोक हित में मैसर्स स्मिथ स्टैनीस्ट्रीट एण्ड कम्पनी लिमिटेड कलकत्ता के अधिकांश हक और हिस्से धर्जन और धनतरण का तथा उममे सम्बन्धित या उमके प्रातुषणिक विषयो का उपलब्ध करने वाले विधेयक को पुरस्थापित करने की आज्ञा दी जाये।

MR SPEAKER The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide in the public interest the acquisition and transfer of the right title and interest of the undertakings of Messrs

Smith Stanistreet and Company Limited, Calcutta and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

The motion was adopted

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र में विधेयक पुरस्थापित किया जाता है।

STATEMENT RE SMITH STANISTREET & CO LTD (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) ORDINANCE

पेट्रोलियम तथा रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र) मैं श्री हेमवती नन्दन हुगुणा की ओर से स्मिथ, स्टैनीस्ट्रीट एण्ड कम्पनी लिमिटेड (उपक्रमों का धर्जन और धनतरण) अध्यादेश, 1977 द्वारा विधान बनाये जाने के कारण बताने वाली एक ध्यात्मिक विवरण (हिन्दी तथा गद्येजी गस्करण) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

GRESHAM AND CRAVEN OF INDIA (PRIVATE) LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) BILL*

MR SPEAKER Mr George Fernandes has sent me a note that he will be in Rajya Sabha Oh! you are already here

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of Messrs Gresham and Craven of India (Private) Limited for the purpose of ensuring the continuity of production of goods which are vital to the needs of the Railways and of the industrial manufacturing engineering products

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President