

[Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu]

clearly said that the radar system must be strengthened and the preparedness to evacuate the people must also be there. After that, when another cyclone came in Orissa, another Committee was appointed and it made the following recommendations in 1974.

And I quote :

"In view of the limited resources and budget provisions usually available with the State governments, the Central Government should render prompt and timely financial assistance to the State governments for the implementation of the various emergency and long-term measures recommended by the Committee for cyclone distress mitigation to the extent required."

And it also said that there should be a national organization, i.e. a national calamities distress mitigation organisation. And it should cater not only to relief required after cyclones, but also due to droughts, floods, earthquakes and land-slides. Then there should be a national organisation which can organize not only relief measures but also re-construction work needed as a result of cyclones.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Naidu, you can continue after lunch. We will re-assemble at 2 p.m.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at five past Fourteen of the clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : I beg to introduce Mr. Arif Beg, the Minister of State

in the Ministry of Commerce and Civil Supplies and Co-operation.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE —Contd.

(i) REPORTED FAILURE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO GIVE ADEQUATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CYCLONE-HIT STATES IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.—Contd.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : As I have mentioned already, the problem of the cyclone in the South is not only a problem of the States, not only a problem of the country, but a problem of the world, because it is so enormous. Andhra Pradesh has asked for Rs. 227 crores, Tamil Nadu Rs. 150 crores and Kerala Rs. 15 crores. How is it possible for the Central Government to give so much money unless a separate "Cyclone Distress Mitigation Fund to the tune of Rs 500 crores is created.

As soon as the cyclone came, the Chief Minister and the other Ministers of the Andhra Pradesh Government went to the affected places to organise relief work, and they deputed 2,000 district officials who are carrying on relief operations. They have been doing very good work. In a short period they were able to undertake relief measures, but unfortunately, after Babu Jagjivan Ram's visit to Andhra Pradesh, politics has been injected into the situation. I am very glad that the Prime Minister has asked all to eschew politics, but even yesterday Shri Chandra Shekhar, the President of the Janata Party, has been talking of dismissing the Andhra Pradesh Government.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : (Delhi Sadar) : Is it relevant?

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : It is quite relevant... ..

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly be brief.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU :
because these are irresponsible statements against the Andhra Pradesh Government and also intriguing.

We agree with the Prime Minister that we should all eschew politics, but he should advise his partymen and Ministers and his party head not to indulge in irresponsible talk and election speeches.

The Prime Minister has said that we had better go and see the affected areas and serve the people there. For the information of the House, I may say that Shri Brahmananda Reddy, our party President, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Vengalla Satyanarayana, Shri M. Nageswara Rao, Shri P. Prasada Rao, Shri Kusuma Krishnamurthy, Shri Akkineedu, Shri Kommudi Satyanarayana, Shri K. Raghuramaiah, Shri K. L. N. Prasad and others went there and inspected all the places and have done something. They came back here only to appraise the Central Government of the magnitude of the calamity.

The people there want relaxation of the Reserve Bank rules so that short and medium term loans can be converted into long-term loans and long-term loans into longer ones. They want the suspension not only of land revenue collection but of the irrigation and other cesses. The Central Government must co-operate with and subsidise the State Government. It must assist the State Government by supplying seeds of paddy and seedlings for growing a fresh crop. Not only that, the land has been silted and, therefore, to de-salinise and also to reclaim the land, grants should be given to the agriculturists. Our Agriculture Minister himself has accepted it. I am very glad, his statement is quite correct not with regard to the men but with regard to cattle and other things. I would say that he must see that free loans are given to start cultivation. From the papers we have been learning that in Andhra and Tamil Nadu

cultivators have started going to their fields and they are working with the same vigour so as to raise the crops. So, unlike other classes, they know their responsibility. The Central Government also should know its responsibility of introducing crop insurance because it is very difficult without crop insurance to protect the people. It is very difficult to protect the people without house insurance and it is very difficult to protect the agriculturists without cattle insurance.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA :
 My effort will be not to bring in politics in this because the Prime Minister had made a statement to that effect saying that we should not bring in politics in this matter and the effort of the Members is to render more and more relief possible to that area.

Suggestions have been made by my hon. friend regarding relaxation of Reserve Bank rules. We are making an effort to approach all the banks and also to request the Reserve Bank in that manner some relief can be given. We are already thinking of converting the short-term loan into medium term and medium term-into long term so that some relief could be given.

Regarding seedlings of paddy and other seedlings and seeds, I had a long talk with the Ministers concerned and also with the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and tried to find out their actual requirements.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about Kerala?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA :
 We are in contact with Kerala also and we will try to make seed available to Kerala also.

Regarding seedling, etc. is concerned, they said that they would intimate their demands. About fertilisers also, they will have to intimate their demands. So far, I have not received their actual approximation of the demand.

[Shri Surjit Singh Barnala]

Regarding insurance of crops, to my mind, it would not be possible to have crop insurance. But so far as animal insurance is concerned, I think that can be a practicable solution and we can look into it. We will certainly examine it. In different parts of the country whenever there is a calamity, animals perish and it becomes very difficult for the farmers to purchase cattle in those areas. We need drought power immediately and so, we will have to try to get tractors etc.

Regarding cyclone area mitigation committee, on these lines the work has been going on. For the time being, we do not have a committee working like this. But we are certainly going to set up a committee which should be able to take decisions on the spot. We are going to set up this committee in one or two days so that immediate decisions are taken on the spot for doing certain things for which they need not have instructions from Delhi. A high power committee will be there. They will be consulting the State Government also whenever they require their assistance in this.

As regards the warnings given by the Meteorological Department, this time also the warnings were given by the Meteorological Department in time. The warnings were correct also as has been seen by subsequent happenings. About 24 hours before they had actually spotted the area where the storm was going to strike. This has been admitted by the State Governments also. The Industry Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also mentioned that 24 hours before the cyclone they knew that the cyclone was going to strike. They had actually taken some precautionary measures also. They had warned their officers that they should take necessary measures. It is said that they did take some necessary measures also. We will try to strengthen that department also.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Pondicherry?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA:

Regarding Pondicherry and Lakshadweep also, the Prime Minister has mentioned it. We are looking into all the States. Wherever assistance is needed, we will surely provide assistance to those areas. I have flown over Pondicherry in that area, and as the clouds were low, we could not see much damage. We could only see water-logging in that area.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Sir, a large portion of our country, the southern part, is in the grip of agony as a result of this calamity and human tragedy. It is beyond the imagination of everyone of us. It is beyond repair, as the Prime Minister put it. This is not a problem of the States concerned alone. As pointed out, it is a problem of the entire nation. I admit, as the Minister said, it is primarily the duty of the States. But, as the Minister has also admitted, both the Centre and the States have to face this calamity together.

Unfortunately, the things are taking a shape in a different way. The big brother attitude has been taken. The way in which it has been dealt with in the last two days has created a suspicion in the minds of the people and amongst the Members sitting on this side of the House. It is true that the Meteorological Department had informed us about the cyclone in every place, in Kerala also. But they could not give warning about the magnitude and the power of the tidal waves which destroyed the entire coastal area, miles and miles together. It was not anticipated that the tidal waves would sweep away the entire area. The Meteorological Department is functioning under the Government of India. I do not know whether the Minister had any such information about it that the tidal waves are going to come with such a force that the entire area was going to be washed off.

If that were so, it was his duty to take all precautionary measures accordingly. But it was beyond their control also.

Let us not go on blaming each other. This problem has to be tackled on a war-footing. Speedy relief operations have to be undertaken to boost up the morale of the people there. The Minister has said that they have given aid to the States concerned. If you look into the statement, you will find that, as the Minister has himself admitted the aid that has been given to the States is within the State Plan allocations. So, this amount of money belongs to the States' Plan sector. It is not an aid from the Centre as such. He said that it was stopped in 1972. It was a wrong decision taken by the previous Government. This Government is also following the same thing. It is very clearly stated that the States have been given the assistance within the Plan allocations. Whatever is within the Plan allocations, the States can spend it. I want to know what is the aid or grant that the Central Government has given? The Government of India is lacking in giving proper assistance to the States. They are only adjusting the amount which is available to the States within their Plan allocations.

Then, the Minister has said that this is the first time that an advance assistance has been released to the States before the completion of the appraisal of the Central team about the damage caused. That is not correct. On the floor of this House, there was a discussion the year before last regarding the serious flood situation in Kerala, in Idukki and other districts of Kerala, and the Government of India sanctioned Rs. 1 crore on the same day without sending any Central Team there. So, the statement made by the Minister is not correct. I hope, he will correct his statement.

Now, Rs 5 crores have been given to Andhra Pradesh; Rs. 5 crores to Tamil Nadu and Rs. 2 crores to Kerala.

This aid is within the Plan allocation, it is not your aid. I am asking you what is your specific aid, grant and assistance to the State which is affected. We are only talking of book adjustment. That is I am objecting to. You have gone to Kerala. You have given only Rs. 1 lakh to Kerala. In the meanwhile, the Kerala Government has spent Rs. 3.5 crores only on rice all over the coastal belt. They have given a free ration to 9 lakh families. We should help the people in this area.

I had seen with my own eyes when I went to my own constituency, Chirayinkil, at mid night, the sea was coming and taking away cattle. I had participated in the evacuation work. Such a disastrous thing is happening in Kerala as well as in Andhra Pradesh. The Minister of State Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, without visiting the State, made his first statement. He said, "The Government of Andhra Pradesh has failed." Here you were good enough to allow a discussion on this for the whole day. Nobody dragged politics into the discussion. The hon. Minister of State made his first statement and abused and accused the Government of Andhra Pradesh. This is politicking.

MR. SPEAKER: Probably that was in the Rajya Sabha. He did not say here.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Then let us come to the visit of the hon. Defence Minister. We were surprised to know that the local Members of Parliament were there. They were not taken with the Defence Minister. He had taken four other people on an aerial survey. He came back and made a statement. They said:

"The four-member Janata Party team returned here last night after a visit to the cyclone-hit areas in Andhra Pradesh with the "clear" impression that the State Government had lost the confidence of the people."

[Shri Vaayalar Ravi]

(Interruptions) Here it is a politicking. There are some lacunae, there are some weakness. But we want to strengthen the whole thing. The Government of India must do this and that. We appreciate that. Instead of making a proper statement, the Minister, with an ulterior motive, abused and accused the Kerala Government. It is nothing but demoralising. It is coming from the mouth of a senior leaders as well as Defence Minister. If you go further, Mr. Speaker, you will find that a controversy had arisen whether the military had been called or not. There is another statement of the Defence Minister. It says:

"My army is not meant for clearing the dead bodies."

To clear dead bodies is a part of the relief work. Unfortunately, this kind of controversy is not expected from a senior leader like Shri Jagjivan Ram, who is a responsible leader in the country. It is all politicking.

Mr. Chandrasekhar, the most respected leader and President of the Janata Party—I have great respect for him—had landed in Hyderabad. I am very sorry for this. There the very first statement that he had made was that Government of Andhra Pradesh had failed. There he might have briefed the local people. Then he made a statement. It says:

"The Janata Party Chief, Mr. Chandrasekhar, today said that the Andhra Pradesh Government has not proved equal to the occasion in tackling the cyclone situation and it is time the State Governor and the Centre should seriously think about the situation.

He further says:

"If the administration collapses, the Centre will have to provide necessary apparatus either through the armed forces or through other methods. It is necessary to take over the Andhra Pradesh administration."

This is politicking. None of us made any attack on the Central Government, none of us said that the central aid was inadequate. Here comes the politics. This is politicking. Here we say that you are interested in politicking than giving aid to the States. It is adding grief to the calamity.

In the patriot, you say, "Villagers ignored warnings. Mr. Vajpayee is here. He is angry with us now-a-days. You see the Samachar dated 26th November. Samachar is not a Congress agency.

"But for the adamant attitude of the people of Divi taluk, which was the central attack point of the cyclone combined with the fury of a huge six-metre tidal wave, the human casualties would not have been as high as reported."

"Samachar correspondent, who visited Bhavadevarapalli group of villages near Avanigadda, was told by the residents of the villages that though they were given the cyclone warning, they had not acceded to the request of the officials to evacuate the areas...."

These are very remote areas which have no infra-structure. And this is the time when the Central and State Governments should join hands to fight this calamity. It is very unfair and inhuman to try to make political capital out of this human misery. That will be adding insult to the injury. That is why, I make this appeal. I appreciate what the Prime Minister has said. That is like a silver lining in the black clouds. He has said that there should be no politicking in this. I appreciate his statement. But there is something here. Some people told him that the officials were corrupt. Some people from his Party must have told him. This is not the time to demoralise anybody there. If you start saying that this man has taken Rs. 10 or that man has taken Rs. 15, people will lose all initiative, nobody will take any initiative.

MR. SPEAKER: What he was referring to was that money given for the purpose was being diverted—corruption in that sense.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: My only submission is this. The hon. Minister may kindly consider this. This is not the time for accusing each other. Let us first remove the dead bodies, let us do the relief work, let us build houses for them. We are very happy about what the Prime Minister has said. His statement is a very responsible statement. In the Gandhian tradition, he has said that there should be no politicking. But unfortunately this politicking has created the problem here. I would like to ask the hon. Minister pointedly whether their assistance to the States would be given apart from political considerations, whether the assistance will be given within the Plan or outside the Plan—whatever quantum you propose to give in kind or in money or as aid or grants. This is my specific question. You should avoid politicking. That will be dangerous and disastrous for the country and for its future.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA:

The Prime Minister has made a very categorical statement in the House. It is not only here that he has made the statement, he had made a statement to the press also in Hyderabad. It has come in the press—in the *Times of India*. He made a clear statement that money was not a problem at all, and whatever was required would be provided to the people in distress. This is a very categorical statement, and after that, I do not think there is any need for much discussion. This is a question of providing money. There will be no shortage of money. Whenever it is needed and in whatever form it is needed, it will be provided—long-term loans and aid, everything is going to these areas in every form possible. We are getting some assistance from several other States and also from other countries. That is being directed immediately to those areas. Our main attention is to provide relief to the

actual persons there who need it. It should reach them immediately. I do not want to enter into any controversy, though effort has been made to bring it, whether the State Government was able to do the work that they should have done at that time. The only thing that we should now consider is this. Today the work is going on. It is going on properly. We should not criticise—what has not been done, what is being done, why there has been delay, and all that. We should not go into those small matters now. Our only concern now should be in what manner we should aid these people more and more.

Regarding some statements made by Shri Jagjiwan Ram and Shri Chandra Shekhar, I would not like to enter into any controversy here.

Regarding assistance from the Centre, the question was asked by an hon. Member why no aid has been given to Lakshadweep and Pondicherry so far. I may mention here that Rs. 10 lakhs have been sanctioned for Pondicherry and Rs. 2 lakhs for Lakshadweep. I received this information just now.

Now, the Hon. Member asked me to correct my statement because he says it was done earlier also—that before a Central team was sent, assistance was granted. I have information that this is the first time that assistance is being granted in this manner, but if it has been done earlier also, I stand corrected.

So, advance Plan assistance is being given and, if needed, we will provide Central assistance also.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Paravathipuram): Sir, as we all know a grave and serious situation, prevails in the southern parts of our country especially in the coastal parts of Andhra Pradesh as a result of the cyclone and the tidal wave that overtook the State a few days back. I would like to make a few points for the

[Shri. V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo]

consideration of the Hon. Minister. The Hon. Minister has just said that there was sufficient warning regarding the cyclone, but I would like to mention that the warning was that the cyclone would strike the coast at Nagapattinam and not at Andhra Pradesh. The coastline of Andhra Pradesh is about 1000 kilometres: it starts from the Orissa border and goes on to Nellore.

I have got a map issued by the Meteorological Department of India showing the cyclone warning radar network. There are cyclone warning radars at Calcutta, Paradip and Visakhapatnam, but there is no radar at Machilipatnam though there is a proposal to have one there. I would request the Hon. Minister to see that a cyclone warning radar is installed at Machilipatnam immediately, where depressions have occurred very often in the sea of the coast of Masulipatnam.

The Minister has said in his statement that the damages are still being assessed. According to certain reports which I have got from my State, about two-and-a-half lakhs cattle, one and-a-half-lakhs of other livestock have perished during the cyclone and the loss of crops is in an area of over 29, 71,833 acres. The State Government has already supplied 2,18,248 quintals of rice and more than 50,000 dhotis and other clothes to the cyclone victims. Besides that, they have also opened 200 relief camps in the State to help the victimised people of these areas apart from several medical centres which are in operation.

The State Government has so far been granted only Rs. 5 crores by the Centre. I am glad that the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture have just said that money would not be a problem. But the State had demanded Rs. 250 crores to be given by the Centre outside the Plan outlay and I hope that the Centre would not delay in seeing that this amount is granted as soon as possible to enable relief work to be hastened.

Sir, this is a natural calamity which is most unprecedented in recent times. I am one with those who feel that this is a national calamity in which partisan attitudes should not be expressed. We welcome the statement made by the Prime Minister and the assurance given by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture stating that politics should not be allowed to creep into this issue. But it is most unfortunate that, as my friends have mentioned earlier, the Hon. Defence Minister of this country, the President of the Janata Party and several other notable senior leaders of the Janata Party have accused the State Government of not having taken proper action. The impression we get is that the ruling party is trying to use this natural calamity at the expense of the people of Andhra Pradesh as a facade to meet their political ends. I would like to appeal to all Members on the other side to refrain from letting petty politics creep into this issue and to take up this cyclone relief work as a national measure.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Then why did the Health Minister of Andhra Pradesh resign?

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO (Karimnagar): If Mr. Chandrasekhar says that the State Government has failed and should be dismissed, we can also say so many things. We are not going to tolerate this. We want to extend cooperation but if this kind of talk goes on it would be very difficult to control the House. (Interruptions). If you are going this way, it would be very difficult for you to function in this House. . . . (Interruptions) A number of people have died in this calamity and you want to take advantage of this. This calamity is being converted into a political cyclone.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: I raised this issue about petitioning only because the Prime Minister and other senior Members of the ruling party have given an assurance in this House that politics will not be allowed

to creep in this matter. I have cited some instances where some of the Janata leaders have made certain remarks which suggest that this issue was being made use of by them for political ends.

Now, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that in several acres of land where the tidal wave came at a height of 10-12 metres and at a speed of 150 kms per hour, a lot of sand has been left in the soil by the receding tidal waves. Unless the sand left by the tidal wave is removed, this land would be rendered uncultivable. A lot of money would be required to reclaim this land plus a massive programme has to be taken up for the second crop by way of giving fertilizers, pesticides, seeds etc. at subsidised rates to the farmers affected by the cyclone.

I am really glad that the hon. Minister for Agriculture and the Prime Minister have assured the House that they would cooperate with the States in carrying on the relief work in these affected areas. I also want the hon. Minister to give an assurance that these materials would be given to the ryots and farmers along with the money demanded by the State Governments i.e. Rs. 250 crores outside the plan outlay, in cash or in kind, to help relieve the situation.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, a point was made that the cyclone warning system should be there at Machilipatnam. That is a vulnerable area and if such a system can be provided, we will examine that and that would be done.

Regarding sand casting, it is correct that a lot of sand came along with the tidal waves. During my visit, I could also see that there was a lot of sand casting in some of the areas, which have been badly affected. Some long-term measures will have to be taken to remove this sand, it cannot be done immediately and that will take some time. There is no machinery with the

Andhra Pradesh Government or with the Central Government to remove all that sand into the sea. It will have to be bull-dozed or to be washed away by the rain or water. It is a long-term process, but it has to be done. We are already thinking in what manner it can be possibly done at the earliest possible time.

A mention was made about the supply of rice. I enquired from the Minister concerned and the Chief Minister whether they needed any food assistance. They said, they have enough food in the State.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: Sir, I am coming from the area and I would say that the hon. Minister is not presenting an objective picture. In Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: He is talking about Andhra Pradesh.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: By temporary measures, we could stop the sea water; we have experience in Kerala. We could have done that, but he says that it cannot be done.

MR. SPEAKER: He is answering a different question about the large amount of sand which has accumulated in the Andhra Pradesh coast and how it could be removed for the second crop. He says that it is a long-term measure and immediately it is not possible.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: I heard him saying that sea-erosion by temporary measures could not be stopped.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the question. He wanted to project Kerala's point.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Yes. The Railway Minister is going to Kerala also for this purpose. The problem of sand-casting is there. In some places the sand comes in along-

[Shri Surjit Singh Barnala]

with the tidal wave and huge amounts of sand are deposited. That has to be removed. There is lot of salinity also because of that. These long-term measures have to be adopted. About the food problem, I had a discussion with the minister concerned and also the Chief Minister at Vijayawada. They told me that they had enough food in the State and they do not want any assistance immediately. All the same, I told the FCI authorities there that whatever food—rice or wheat—they need, that should be given from the FCI godowns.

MR. SPEAKER: He said that the meteorological information only said that the cyclone would hit Nagapattinam and nothing was mentioned about the Andhra coast.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: From the statement of the Chief Minister it is evident—it came in the papers also and he has also written to me—that they knew 24 hours earlier that it is going to strike somewhere near Machilipatnam. The people were warned but they were not willing to be evacuated. So....

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: I have got a copy of the Chief Minister's statement. It says, by 17th afternoon the cyclone would hit between Nagapattinam and Madras.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I am referring to the 19th.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Cannanore): After we had the discussion on the last occasion, I went to Andhra to see for myself what had happened there. It was not by air; it was not an aerial survey. I travelled in Divi taluk in Krishna district and also in Guntur district. I saw the conditions in Mandapakka, Sarlagondi, Pottimeda and Bhavadevarpalli. These villages have been completely devastated. In Kodur, still human bodies are lying. I also visited Nagaalanka, Avani-gadda

Kollapalli and Sripuram. In Guntur district, I visited Sanjivayya Nagar, Indira Gandhi Nagar, Lambadithunda, Venkataramanagai, Chuttugonda, the Hindu College camp and Mangalagiri. In Tenali, I visited Ganga Bhavanipet, Ithanagar and Chiralawada. I took the trouble of pronouncing these difficult names....

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): They are not difficult.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: They are difficult for me.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a young man.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: In all these places I have found that a large number of dead bodies of animals were scattered. Quite a number of human bodies were still lying undisposed of and in a rotten state. I walked miles and miles through these areas. It is impossible for any human being to move there without proper medical prevention from nausea, etc. I have seen areas where water is completely polluted and the animals drank that water by drooping their head. I took some veterinary people with me because I am not an expert. They said that those animals would also die because of pollution.

I have seen these villages completely devastated. There are places like Bhavadevarpalli. If you see the place now, you can say once upon a time there was a village. That is the situation in that particular area in Krishna District. The entire area—50 miles long and 10 miles wide—500 sq. miles had been completely devastated by the tidal waves.

I would like to ask a question from the hon. Minister. Controversy is going on whether proper warning had been given. It seems that the disputed point is that the Centre and the

meteorological stations gave warning 24 hours before all this took place and whether Shri Vengalrao knew about it. I have no quarrel about it. May be, they might have given a warning and he might have known. But I am sure, people over there did not know about that.

I have asked the people who are living in the camps. I have asked the people who are still clinging to the ruins of their huts. They knew nothing about that. They said, "We saw mountain like water and fire over that and a butter like thing and we saw water flown into somewhere." That is exactly the point which I raised in the last debate.

The Centre might have told the State Government about the tidal wave. I do not want to accuse. Let the accusation go to the State Government, but I must say that the matter was dealt with irresponsibly by you as a result of which more than nearly 20,000 people died. I do not believe that figure. It is a small figure. Many more people died. Their dead bodies will be found.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): You did not see the dead bodies

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: These are under debris. I have gone to Bhavadevarpalli.

In my presence the house tops in Bhavadevarpalli were lifted and two dead bodies were taken out. They are afraid of going to those places. They say dead bodies are lying there.

That was one week earlier I do not believe the statement that everything is over

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Except the Kerala Government.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: We are at different footings. Let us not come to that.

I am not interested in bringing politics into it. If people start bringing politics, the people outside will understand that.

I want to speak about the President of India. He did not go by an aerial survey. He might have. But he went to the people. He was with them. He saw their agony. He said let us not bring politics here. He said somehow bury these dead bodies. Remove them because it is bringing conditions of epidemic. It had already started. I have seen people suffering from gastro-enteritis. What is the Government going to do about it? You cannot just tell us that everything is over. It is not over. It is still there. I want to know whether the Government is going to take specific measures about it. You have the Nationalised Coal Corporation, a public sector undertaking. Why cannot you dump some coal there and ask the people to burn such things? You cannot do it by the help of the police and military alone. That should be made very clear. In that village, from where the Minister who resigned came, I met the sarpanch. I met the Minister himself, Mr. Krishna Rao. They all told me with Governmental machinery alone you cannot do it. You have to mobilise the people to do it. They are doing it there. We have to lend full support to those people. All the institutions concerned have to render them all help.

There is the Nagalanka town in the middle of some small villages which had a population of nearly 15,000. Now 25,000 more people have come. Now the population is roughly 50,000.

I met the Panchayat people. They say now everything is collapsing. They said there is immediate need to rush in more medical personnel, food and water-supply arrangements, setting up more of camps for the poor people to

[Shri C. K. Chandrappan]

live in there. These are some pressing problems. I have seen some big temples or church with big, strong, concrete structures which still remain. Some hundreds of people got in there and saved their lives. We should have more of such concrete, granite structures in these areas. We should have such strong structures in Kerala also which is a coastal area. We should have such strong concrete structures in all these vulnerable areas. Is the Government going to have a plan for that? I don't know whether the Minister is aware of the havoc caused by sea arosion. In Machilipatnam big sea-walls were erected after the 1864 Cyclone.

In view of what happened, the whole area had been washed away by the tidal wave. I want to know whether Government will look into it. I had suggested something but the Minister said that it was not possible. I say it is possible, and it has been done in countries like China, Viet-Nam etc. Don't go by politics of the countries—here we are dealing with sea erosion. Japan and Poland, on their sea coast, have erected a special type of trees in line whose roots go deep down the sand which will form a protective wall I have seen in Viet-Nam where they have completely solved this problem. What the concerned department is doing about this at different places is another thing. In Viet-Name, it has been done.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chandrappan, we have already taken a lot of time on this. Kindly be brief.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Another thing is this. If you walk through these areas, you can see everything that has been devastated. The books which the students had lay strewn and they had nothing else to go to their schools. Will the Government take some measures by which some special grants are given to them? I am of course happy that the UGC

has done something for the university students. But in our country the university students form a small part of the students community. You may say that it is a state subject. I want the hon. Minister, taking into account the seriousness of the situation, to help the students so that they will be able to continue their studies.

Now, coming to the last point, that is of course in the Concurrent List because of the Fortysecond Amendment, I want to know whether the hon. Minister will take some concrete steps in this regard for these people. The people are not interested in politics but they are only interested in their well being and, in this hour of crisis you should come out to help them. This is the only concern of the people. I hope the Minister will keep this thing in mind when we discuss here.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: May I know the date when you visited these places?

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: I visited these places on Saturday and Sunday, the 26th and 27th November.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, the hon. Member had started in a way saying that he visited the places. I have gone to the places. But, I did not make the aerial survey only.

MR. SPEAKER: You could not go by walk to those places.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I did walk about to some of the places. We went to Machilipatnam; also we went to Divi taluka; we visited some camps on this 90 mile route. We went there on the 21st. I did not see any human corpse on this 90 mile route.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: I have myself seen the dead bodies there.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Kindly listen to me. I did not say that you did not visit this place. I am

only telling that I have visited some of the places. There were no human corpses on the 20 mile route. We found only 15 animal carcasses lying on the road. They were still lying and the President was pleased to remark at that time to the Chief Minister that efforts should be made to remove these animal carcasses immediately or they should be destroyed there itself by throwing petrol, etc. Now, the Member has said that he visited that place on the 26th and still on the 26th dead bodies were found there. What does it indicate! It does speak something. If the dead bodies were lying there on the 26th....

(Interruptions)

15.00 hrs.

So, Sir, he has mentioned that even now in some huts dead bodies were lying when he went there. This was a huge area. It was not two or three villages. Effort had been made by the State Government. I saw on the 24th some medical teams were going to that side and President said that water arrangements—drinking water arrangements—should be made. Some tankers were seen by me. The effort was started on the 24th and by this time, I am told, efforts are in full swing. Sir, the main work was that of inoculation. We wanted to start it immediately so that there is no spread of any epidemic.

As regards the suggestion about concrete structures in those areas it is a welcome suggestion. This suggestion was made by us. I made a statement to this effect. We had a discussion about it when the President and the Chief Minister were present there. We saw some structures still intact there though in some cases roofs had been blown off. We thought if they were raised to fifteen feet or twenty feet with concrete pillars then may be they will become good for a school or a community centre. If four to five hundred persons could go in that structure during the time of any calamity then they could be saved.

It is a good suggestion. We are looking into it.

Then the hon'ble Member has said that I have not seen the problem of sea erosion. Sir, I have seen the work being done in his State in connection with sea erosion. Probably, that also is not sufficient. I saw that in some areas in Kerala sea wall is being constructed. But that also is being eroded. A continuous effort has to be made in this respect.

Sir, a suggestion has been made about planting of special kind of trees. I will look into this matter as to what kind of trees these could be. Now, we have palm and coconut trees along the coast line. This time I was surprised to see that in some areas the entire range of coconut and palm trees have fallen to the ground. Then, Sir, he mentioned about the difficulty of the students. We will surely look into it. The students will be provided with text-books. The first priority is clothing. Then comes Housing. Along with the State Government we are making efforts to provide as quickly as possible some houses for these people who have been uprooted. Then the school buildings will have to be looked into and the needs of the students will have to be looked into.

*SHRI A. SUNNA SAHIB (Palghat):
 Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir as the hon. Members who preceded me have already covered a wide ground of the Calling Attention Motion and as any repetition would be redundant, I would confine myself to a few cardinal issues.

Sir, Mother Nature unleashed her unheard of fury on her unwary children of Southern States leaving a trail strewn all over with carcasses of cattle and corpses of human beings. When we dread to tread this highway of havoc, you can imagine the suffering and distress of the people of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands whose scars of cyclone will take long

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A. Sunna Sahib]

to heal. The Tamil Nadu known for its munificence from the dawn of civilisation is asking for alms today. The searing cyclone that hit the southern parts of our country has attracted international attention. The wail of women who have lost their breadwinners, of men who have lost their beloveds, of parents who have suddenly in a july become barren of the blossoming buds of humanity who have been orphaned, has touched the heart of entire humanity. The people of these States are not asking for your mercy; they are demanding their rightful share in their hour of agony. This is not the moment for political chicanery or for political vindictiveness. When hell has been let loose on the people of these States, political expediency must be given a go-by. When the Central Government could give 50,000 tonnes of rice, out of which 5000 tonnes are free of cost, to Tamil Nadu, I am unable to appreciate the allotment of 1000 tonnes of measly wheat to Kerala. I am constrained to construe whether there is any political witch-hunting even in this hour of grief. In Palghat district alone, which happens to be my constituency, the loss due to cyclone has been of the order of Rs. 1 crore. In the annals of history Palghat district has not witnessed such a vicious cyclone. Even the mountains at the outskirts of Palghat had become minions before the onrush of flood waters. More than four villages at the foothills have vanished. The people from Tamil Nadu who were living on the mountain-sides have disappeared. It looked that there was a sea which had swallowed the mountain-slopes.

Sir, day in and day out we hear the sermons from the Leader of this House about our age-old traditions. I am a humble student of Mahabharata which hinges on the philanthropy of Karna. We seem to talk about Karna's benevolence. At this juncture, is it

not the 'bounden duty of the Central Government to follow the footsteps of Karna's tradition and to come to the rescue of cyclone-ravaged people? I wonder whether the people, who cannot catch the cock on the roof of the hut, can show the path-way to Heaven.

Only yesterday the Kerala Chief Minister has demanded that the Centre should give an outright grant of Rs 5.84 crores to Kerala. He has reiterated that the total loss of Kerala on account of this cyclone is of the order of Rs. 15 crores. The hon. Minister of Agriculture cannot take shelter under the plea that since he has not come across dead bodies the devastation is not so heavy. The criteria of Central Assistance should be the intensity of the suffering of the people whether they live in Kerala or Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh. You will appreciate that the Central Government cannot make distinction in the degree of suffering or on the size of the State because human suffering is human suffering everywhere. Like water flowing fast down the decline, the Central Assistance should have come fast to the people in distress. I appeal to the hon. Minister of Agriculture that he should raise himself above the framework of Sixth Finance Commission or the Plan Allocations. The money for Cyclone Relief and Rehabilitation must have no relationship to the rigid administrative regulations. The basis of this assistance should be that a smile on the face of a suffering man is more scintillating than all the wealth in the face of the earth.

In the constituency of Dr. Henry Austin, Ernakulam, the fishermen living on the coast have lost hundreds of fishing boats. They must not be allowed to become living corpses. Kerala is the living example of the Tamil saying that the tiller alone leads real life and all others are serfs. Every inch of land in Kerala is cultivated. Now the agriculturists are facing the sand-casting on their fields. They need

immediate help if they are to survive. Their lands must be reclaimed before the next crop-season. They must be supplied with high-yielding variety of seeds and fertilisers. The relief assistance must be on a war-footing. I request that the hon. Minister of Agriculture should be guided only by the motive of relieving the distress of the people.

Before I conclude, I would remind him of the irreparable loss suffered by Palghat District in particular to the tune of a crore of rupees—which must be compensated and in general the financial needs of the Kerala Government to alleviate the agony of the people

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I was reminded of the furious cyclone and its speed on hearing the speech. I am very thankful to the hon. Member for describing the calamity in his area. He has again and again mentioned that people living on the coastal areas should also be looked after and that we should provide relief to them also. As I have stated earlier, relief will be provided to everybody—may be he is living on the coastal area or inland area. But for the time being, we are not thinking of giving any compensation, we are thinking of only relief. We will be providing all types of relief, wherever it is necessary including his constituency. He has made no specific points. I assure him that relief will be provided in his constituency also.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: He has made a specific point that many fishing boats have been destroyed and that people are starving. What are you going to do in that regard?

MR. SPEAKER: He has stated that he will examine that.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur): Another important point he has mentioned is about rice allotment.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I was told that Kerala Government is providing food to those people. Today I have passed an order that one thousand tonnes of wheat should be immediately given free of cost.

15.12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANT—Contd.

(ii) REPORTED LARGE SCALE INFLUX OF REFUGEES FROM BANGLADESH

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I have given a notice. I rise on a point of order. I would like to say that under Rule 41, sub-rule (xix), this Call Attention motion should not have been admitted. I have an apprehension that you have lost sight of this particular provision and admitted this motion. Sub-rule (xix) of Rule 41 reads:

“It shall not refer discourteously to a foreign country.”

Now, the call Attention motion is to call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the reported large scale influx of refugees from Bangladesh to India—that part is alright—and the reported execution by Bangladesh Government of some repatriates from India. Sir, how can we sit in judgement about what they do in their own country. The second point is, if India wanted to grant asylum to those who are seeking political asylum, it is within our rights to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’. You can allow or disallow them. But once a Bangladesh citizen goes back to Bangladesh, what they do there is purely their internal affair. How can we in this Parliament sit in judgment over the action of another duly constituted government and create disaffection between the two countries? I am afraid you have lost sight of this particular