

randum making certain amendments to Notification No. 13-Customs/81 dated the 9th February, 1981.

- (iii) G.S.R. 639 (E) and G.S.R. 640 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods specified in the Table appended to the Notification from the whole of the basic additional and auxiliary duties of the Customs leviable thereon.
- (iv) G.S.R. 641 (E) and G.S.R. 642 (E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods specified in the Table appended to the Notification from the whole of the basic additional and auxiliary duties of customs leviable thereon.
- (v) The Shipping Bill and Bill of Export (Form) Regulations, 1991 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 552(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library See No. LT.793/91]

statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of:

- (i) Second Report of Estimates Committee (Ninth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eightieth Report of the Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Surface Transport—Dredging Operations in Major Ports.
- (ii) Third Report of Estimates Committee (Ninth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventy-ninth Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

12.10 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation arising out of Cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and Relief Measures undertaken by the Government

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the situation arising out of the recent cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and the steps taken by the Government for rendering relief to the affected population. Immediately after receipt of the cyclone warning, concerned State Governments and the Union Territory of Pondicherry were contacted and were requested to take all precautionary mea-

12.09 hrs

ESTIMATES-COMMITTEE

Action Taken Statements

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): I beg to lay on the table

[Sh. Balram Jakhar]

asures to minimise the loss to life and property.

A cyclonic storm began to develop in the Bay of Bengal on the 12th November, 1991 and its progress was closely monitored by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and suitable warnings were issued to the authorities in the entire concerned coastal region in the States of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. This cyclonic storm crossed the Tamil Nadu coast near Karaikal about 30-40 kms. north of Nagapattinam, a little after mid-night, in the early hours of 15th November, 1991. This cyclone generated strong surface winds of gale force 80 to 90 kms. per hr. in short durations and 60 to 70 kms. per hr. for longer durations. There was heavy to very heavy rainfall over coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Union Territory of Pondicherry. Under its influence, wide-spread rains were experienced in parts of the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra.

As desired by the Prime Minister, I visited Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Karnataka on 23rd, 24th and 25th November, 1991 and took an aerial survey of the flood affected areas and had detailed discussions with Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the Lt. Governor of Pondicherry. In Bangalore, I had occasion to discuss the situation there with the Revenue and Agriculture Ministers of Karnataka State Government on 25th November, 1991. Hon'ble Members would appreciate that in nearly all the areas I visited, I observed that the governmental machinery is still busy assessing the damage that has occurred in different parts of these States in the wake of the recent cyclone. I therefore stressed upon the Ministers and officers I met that the first priority should be given to organising relief measures followed by providing relief to the farmers in the shape of agricultural inputs to ensure that the forthcoming rabi season may take full advantage of the wide-spread rains that have taken

place. I drew pointed attention of the Ministers and officers to the statement made by the Prime Minister in Hyderabad on 23rd November, 1991 that the States should exercise due caution while incurring expenditure under the Calamity Relief Fund so that they have sufficient funds for relief measures whenever a calamity strikes.

In Andhra Pradesh, I was informed that Rs. 40 crores have been allocated to the various districts out of which Rs. 29 crores were meant for drought relief and the rest for flood relief measures. A sum of Rs. 30 crores is still there in balance with the Andhra Pradesh Government under the C.R.F and they are taking measures to see that relief measures and agricultural inputs to farmers are provided on priority. The Prime Minister himself addressed a meet of Ministers and Officers in Hyderabad and took stock of the relief measures that were being implemented by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. In Madras, I was informed that a sum of Rs. 9 crores has been allocated by the Tamil Nadu Government for immediate relief measures and they have Rs. 30 crores in balance in their CRF to organise relief measures. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu indicated that in the event of diversification in agriculture as a long-term precaution against seasonal calamities like cyclone and drought, the allocation of rice to the State would have to be increased considerably. Some good preparatory work was done in Tamil Nadu when cyclone warning was received because of which the loss of life was considerably minimised. In Bangalore, I had occasion to visit a few villages apart from carrying out an aerial survey of the affected districts in the Bangalore division. The mud houses of the affected villages in the Bangalore division seem to have collapsed in large numbers and the Karnataka Government is planning to extend assistance to those people whose house have been damaged. I advised the Karnataka government to consider presenting a housing project to the National Housing Bank and HUDCO.

Hon'ble Members may be aware that a Central Reconnaissance Team was also deputed on 23rd and 24th November to

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu which held discussions with the Officers of these State Governments to assess the assistance in the shape of help from central sources which need to be made available in the affected areas. A separate Central Team would be visiting Pondicherry in the near future to assess the damage that has taken place there because the 9th Finance Commission did not make any recommendation regarding the relief measures to be taken up in the Union Territories and the task of assessing the damage, lies with the Central Government.

According to the existing scheme for financing the relief expenditure, which came into force from 1.4.1990, a Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted for each State with an allocated amount, of which 75 per cent is contributed by the Central Government as a non-plan grant in 4 quarterly instalments and the balance 25 per cent is contributed by the State Governments from their own resources. There is an annual allocation of Rs. 804 crores consisting of Rs.603 crores Central contribution and Rs. 201 crores States contribution. The 9th Finance Commission, while recommending the State-wise annual allocation under the CRF had taken into account the average of the ceilings of expenditure approved for management of natural calamities during the last ten years. The State-level Committees headed by the Chief Secretaries of the States are competent to decide on all matters connected with the relief expenditure including the norms of assistance.

Consequent upon the constitution of the Calamity Relief Fund, the State governments are now required to meet the entire expenditure on the management of the natural calamities. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karanataka have been allocated Rs.86.00 crores, Rs. 39.00 crores and Rs. 27.00 crores respectively under Calamity Relief Fund. Central Government has already released its entire contribution during the current year.

I would like to assure the House that the Government of India is keeping a close watch

on the situation and suitable action is being taken in consultation with the State governments concerned.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT(Agra): Sir, what the Central Government is going to do for the victims of earthquake in Uttar Pradesh where the property worth billions of rupees has been damaged? (*Interruptions*) Something should have been mentioned about Uttar Pradesh also alongwith other states.

MR. SPEAKER: As I have already told you, a separate statement would be issued, later on. Now it is related to drought and floods.

SHRI BAGAWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Sir, I mean to say that people are dying there. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you that Government is going to issue a separate statement on it. This statement relates to drought and floods.

[*English*]

Shri P. Chidambaram will make a statement on the Minimum Release Price for Coffee in the afternoon.

Now Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam will make a statement regarding Government business for the week commencing the 2nd December, 1991.

12.16 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): With you permis-