

PROF P G MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar) Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs generally makes his statement for the next week's business on Fridays. But, because tomorrow happens to be a holiday, he has made his statement today.

I only want to invite your attention to one aspect of the matter. There are a number of urgent matters which we cannot hold over for two, three or four days. Unless we focus the attention of the House to them today, we cannot rest at peace. Today, the Minister gave his statement, I understand that all matters under 377 have been

MR SPEAKER On Monday and Tuesday after 12 O'clock afternoon only legislative business will be taken up. It is for this reason that the Rajya Sabha has no work whatsoever at all. It has become very important to provide some work to the Rajya Sabha also.

PROF P G MAVALANKAR I agree with you. But, my point is that there are certain major matters. How shall we bring them under 377?

MR SPEAKER You give notice on them. I shall give you the time. Now, Shri Shanti Bhushan

12.00 hrs.

#### COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL\*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN) I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act 1956.

MR SPEAKER The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956"

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN I introduce the Bill

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—contd

श्री हुकूम बेव नागमग दादव (मधुवनी) अध्यक्ष महोदय ससदीय नाय मंत्री र जा रिपोट रखी है उस सबस म निबदन रगत चाहता हू कि इतनी बातों पर यहा बहस हार्न है लेकिन मै यह जानना चाहता हू कि जनत पार्टी ने अपन जनतव घोषणा-पत्र म आश्रयान् दिया था कारा रातवर कमीशन की रिपोट को लागू करन का उस कमीशन की रिपोट पर बहस कराने और वह लागू हागी य खटाई मे ही पडी रहेगी जैसे इतन दिना तक पडी रही ? उस पर ता कुछ जाना ही नहीं है । सब चीजों पर यहा बहस हाता है और वह काका बालेकर कमीशन की रिपोट पडी ही रह गई ।

12 10 hrs

#### MOTION RE CYCLONES IN THE STATES IN THE SOUTH

SHRI C K CHANDRAPPA (Channarayana) Sir, I beg to move the following

"That this House feels intensely concerned with the severity of the cyclones that struck several coastal areas recently in the States in the South causing wide-scale devastation, loss of life and extensive damage to standing crops and property and urges the Government to organize urgently massive relief work in the affected areas besides drawing up long term programme for rehabilitation of the affected people."

Sir, I am sure that, in the course of the discussion of this Motion, the House is going to discuss one of the

most devastating tragedies which had overtaken our country in the recent past. Sir, it may be true to say that what happened in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and in the rest of South India including Kerala, Karnataka and Pondichery is perhaps one of the biggest devastation which has taken place in the recent past anywhere in the world itself. When we discuss about it, it is very natural that we will put forward many suggestions for the Government to consider immediately and also we would like to suggest long-term programme so that this kind of calamity should be averted.

Now, Sir, what happened in the recent period is not something which was quite unexpected. This part of the country especially those coastal States in the Bay of Bengal, is prone to cyclonic storm. Sometimes it hit Bengal, sometimes West Bengal and sometimes Orissa. It was only last year that it hit Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. So, this is not something which is unexpected. Every year or more or less, occurs in such a situation. I would like the Government to enlighten this House as to why it failed so miserably in warning the people in advance and taking such measures by which mass deaths and destruction could be avoided to a certain extent. I do not think that we are living in a period when Science is so backward that it cannot forecast what is going to happen in the weather. In 1864 there was a big cyclone which hit Andhra Pradesh and it is reported that 30,000 people died. It is 113 years ago. Today after 113 years the science and technology is very advanced. We have satellite tracking system by which we can forecast the weather and forecast a cyclone and also its movements sufficiently in advance. Further, there is the network of radio and television arrangements by which we could inform the people in advance about the calamity expected to come. In spite of this, I think, the Government could hardly do anything. Of course, they might have made a weather forecast through the radio and also raised the signals in the coast but was that

2576 LS-8.

enough? In this modern period it is not enough. There I find the government failed very badly. May I here draw your attention to what happened in China last year when there was a very big earthquake and earthquake after earthquake. When everybody expected that millions will perish. What the government did was that they sufficiently in advance gave warning to the people and asked them to live in open space. Millions of people before the actual occurring of the earthquake stayed in the open space and thus averted a very big calamity. I am not saying it should be repeated in the same way here but the question is whether the Government had taken any steps in that direction by which the human lives could have been saved. I think the Government failed. Not only this. There are other things also. I do not know who is to be blamed for that. All the newspapers reported that in Andhra Pradesh several thousands of people have lost their lives due to cyclone. The tidal waves entered the villages and there were destruction and devastation. It was said that everywhere the army was ready to save the people and render all possible help to the affected people. They were alerted earlier too. But I do not know whose failure it was. Somebody failed somewhere and whoever failed, their failure is a criminal failure on account of which several thousands have lost their lives. Because of this failure, they had to pay the price in death and destruction.

Sir, this House should be told who exactly was responsible for that and those responsible should be punished because the whole country is interested to know why there was a failure in this direction. This failure has resulted in such a big calamity taking the life of several thousands of people in Andhra Pradesh. I hope the Minister will keep it in mind and tell the House why it has happened like that.

Coming to the other aspect of the matter, Sir, kindly look at the magnitude of the problem. If you go through the press report, you will know what we are saying today is only a tip of

[Shri C. K. Chandrapan]

the ice berg. I was reading the Special Correspondent's report in 'The Hindu' after his visit to some of the areas in Andhra Pradesh. I hope you might also have read the news item. It says that the number of people died, that is, 2000 or 3000, only shows the number of the bodies you could collect. They are visible. But it says that there were land slides and under the earth dead bodies might possibly be lying. There are dead bodies - washed away from the areas which were marooned and which are still inaccessible. The Government of Andhra Pradesh reports that about 20,000 people have died. I think that is a preliminary estimate made by the Government. That is their first hand information. But I am afraid that the death incidence is much more than that. So, it is not the question of 20,000 or 30,000 people having lost their lives. What happened is something which is beyond our imagination. What has happened is something which makes the whole country shudder to think that such a calamity has happened in a modern country where science and technology have advanced to a great extent.

Similarly when they speak about Tamil Nadu, the figures given is roughly 500 or 486. This is according to the information given on 23rd instant. I think there also the same thing might have happened. You will come across many more dead bodies. Today the Kerala Chief Minister has made a statement that already 72 people are dead and 72 people are missing. I do not want to speak about Kerala because what happened in Andhra Pradesh cannot be compared with what happened in Kerala. In Kerala it is too little. But I think the Government should take an overall view of the situation of what happened in the entire South, in all the States of the South, whether it is Andhra Pradesh, whether it is Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, Karnataka or even Goa. I think what happened is something very big and colossal. The loss in terms of money value due to destruction runs into several hundreds of crores of rupees.

It will perhaps take many years for us to recover from the tragedy which had overtaken us. It is not a question of what happened in the south; what happened there will have its impact in the north and the whole country will reel under the impact of what happened in the States in the south. I do not want to give figures of people dead or standing crops destroyed or fishermen lost; all that is known. I want the government to look into this matter as a national problem. It should not be merely left to the state governments nor should it be left within the purview of the suggestions made by the Finance Commissions. Some money will be given by way of grant; the Central government has given Rs. 5 crores to Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh. I say it is good as a beginning but it is quite inadequate to meet the requirements today. So the government should think about it in a much bigger way and they have to be liberal in rendering assistance to the States and people who have been affected.

Here I should like to make a few suggestions. Because things have happened in an unprecedented way we have to be a little unconventional in dealing with them. The Central government should help in a big way. I hope the Minister will enlighten the House as to what their limit is; but they should be liberal. Secondly, you will remember that some 10 or 15 years ago there was a big earthquake in Tashkent which was similar to what has happened in the South due to the cyclone. Thousands of people died there. After about a year of that happening, I had an opportunity to visit Tashkent and I found that they had successfully wiped out all the marks of that calamity. How did they do that? That is something of interest to us. They asked every Republic in the Soviet Union, whether it was Byelorussia far away, or Estonia still farther away, to come and take part of Tashkent for reconstruction. Responsibility was to them to do that, besides rendering help from the central government. Here my suggestion is that every state in our country should bear the burden of rebuild-

ing Andhra, Tamilnadu and Kerala. During this period you should allot one or two districts to each state, depending upon its capacity and ask that state to render assistance at this juncture.

I have a few suggestions for the rehabilitation of the people in that area and I hope the government would consider them. Government should convene a conference of Chief Ministers immediately and the Prime Minister and the concerned ministers in the Centre should attend that and they should make an earnest appeal that the whole of India should come to the rescue of those who suffered in the south. I hope the government can do something in a big way and would open its purse and render liberal assistance so that they can say we have done whatever is possible beyond is beyond our capacity.

This House should also make a fervent appeal to the entire country to the whole word to come to the aid of the people who are suffering. Voluntary organisations, political parties and mass organisations should come and help at this time of crisis. I do not know whether it would be good but as a gesture we could send a delegation from this House to visit Andhra Pradesh not to make any representations but to tell the people that the House feels so strongly and so intensely for them and that we are with them in the period of crisis.

I have a few short term suggestions. Death and devastation has taken place. Destruction is immense. The sufferings for the victims are only beginning. Yesterday you might have read in the papers that the people are running away from the villages because of the stench of rotting human flesh and it brings epidemics. There are no vultures or other birds. They are dead in the cyclone. So, the people in the affected areas should be inoculated and other medical facilities should be provided to them. Secondly, in the days to come free rations should be provided to the affected people. Free clothes and other amenities should be

provided as a relief measure. There is large-scale destruction of houses. The houses of rich people are made of concrete and they are not affected by tidal waves. But the huts of the people living in rural areas and urban slums flew away in the wind. Those people should be provided with sufficient money by way of grants and loans to rebuild their houses.

SHRI D B CHANDRE GOWDA (Chikmagalur) On a point of order, Sir The Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Finance Minister and other ministers are not present.

MR SPEAKER The concerned minister—Agriculture Minister—is present.

SHRI C K CHANDRAPPAN It would have been better if the Prime Minister and Finance Minister were present.

MR SPEAKER Several of them are already in those areas.

SHRI C K CHANDRAPPAN Loans and grants have to be provided to the peasants to re-start their agricultural operations. Seeds and fertilisers should be provided. Assistance should be given to small traders and small owners of factories. They had only such small things to earn their livelihood. Their problem should be seriously considered and adequate help should be given. Government should immediately write off all the loans due from the peasants of those areas. There should be no collection of arrears of revenue or other dues for the coming period. It should be written off. The students of those areas must have lost their books, stationery and everything. Government should take steps to provide books, stationery and also some money to start with to the students. The help of all voluntary agencies Indian and international should be mobilised. Effective steps should be taken to prevent soil erosion and sea erosion. For future adequate warning systems should be provided to warn the people.

[Shri C K Chandrappan]

sufficiently in advance if these steps are immediately taken we can say that this House discussed the matter seriously and tried to render all possible assistance I hope that this House will not take it as a party matter—Government versus opposition matter but as a matter in which the entire nation is concerned It is a national problem and I hope the government will rise up to the expectations of the people by coming forward with all possible assistance

MR SPEAKER *motion moved*

That this House feels intensely concerned with the severity of the cyclones that struck several coastal areas recently in the States in the South causing wide-scale devastation loss of life and extensive damage to standing crops and property and urges the Government to organize urgently massive relief work in the affected areas besides drawing up long term programme for rehabilitation of the affected people "

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN (Satara) Mr Speaker Sir may I intervene for a brief period in this very important debate that is being allowed in the House today I am taking precedence over one of my colleagues, Mr Stephen, who has something more to say But I would like to highlight some of the very important points which I consider in the context of this cyclonic disaster

Sir India has got very long coastal line, roughly three thousand miles or perhaps more and having a coastal line of this size, it is both advantageous and disadvantageous Sometimes it is somewhat disadvantageous on occasions like this. But mostly it is advantageous as a marine country That means, really speaking the coastal line is the gateway to the marine wealth as such apart from being a means of communication with the entire world At the same time, there are occasions like this when we are exposed to unprecedented disasters like this. Naturally we are all concerned and our hearts

go out to people in Tamil Nadu, in Andhra Pradesh, in Kerala, in parts of Karnataka and Lakshdweep You yourself took the initiative that the House should express its feelings of concern about the disaster The Government of India took immediate note of this and made some grants—few crores Of course they are symbolic grants to begin with and naturally our efforts will be concentrated more on the relief work in days to come

Sir, may I make one suggestion in support of what Mr Chandrappan was saying that when disasters of this size come we do not look to the old books of the Finance Ministry to the guidelines and yardsticks that were prepared some decades ago The problems are very vast in the light of the development work that we have done and the encouragement that we give to agricultural production Apart from this there is the problem of the human life which seems to be increasing every day as the information comes and now the human losses have gone to a few thousands in Andhra a few hundreds in Tamil Nadu and some hundreds in Kerala We should also take into account the loss of resources in the form of loss of valuable crops I was told that in Andhra the crop was perhaps the best this year Besides the loss of invaluable crops and resources like this much worse is the damage to the soil In Andhra the soil is the best for paddy crop In such natural calamities the soil gets distorted and lost. It is a great loss and it is very difficult to assess such a loss So, I would suggest that some imaginative people some people who have got the capacity to understand the problems of people spontaneously on the spot should go into the matter One should not merely look at it in terms of rupees annas and pies We must create a feeling in the minds of people that at the time of disaster we have the real friend in Government and in our democracy and this is the one important thing that we must establish on such occasions. Naturally, on the question