

[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 Nagaelanka, Avani-gadda

Kollapalli and Sripuram. In Guntur district, I visited Sanjivayya Nagar, Indira Gandhi Nagar, Lambadithunda, Venkataramanaga, 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

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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 erosion. 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