

# NATURAL CALAMITIES

*MEASURES FOR MITIGATION*

*Collection of Speeches in Parliament,  
Articles and Statements*

*by*

**Prof. N. G. R A N G A**

**THE INDIAN PEASANT INSTITUTE**

**NIDUBROLE — VIJAYAWADA — HYDERABAD**



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# INTRODUCTION

Natural Calamities are worldwide phenomena. The people all over the world suffer from Natural Disasters. But some of the economically developed prosperous countries suffer less from the consequences of Natural Calamities like Cyclones, Floods, Droughts, Famines, Epidemics, Earthquakes, Tornadoes etc. Some of the countries are more prone to such calamities repeatedly. Most of the underdeveloped and Developing countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa are not economically strong enough to withstand the consequences of such sudden devastating Natural Calamities and recoup from their onslaughts.

India, with teeming millions, is prone to suffer repeatedly from the terrible consequences of one or the other of the Natural Disasters—Cyclones, Floods, Droughts and Famines etc. It has become an annual feature in India. One state or the other is facing the consequences of one or the other of the Natural Calamities.

1979 witnessed floods in West Bengal, Rajasthan and Assam, Drought in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and even Haryana and cyclone in Andhra Pradesh besides the Dam Burst in Saurashtra of Gujarat. But 1979 is no exception. In every year, there is this type of threat to one or two or more states in India. Indian agriculturists are obliged to live and crop their lands, despite these annual threats and recurrences.

The Turbulent Brahmaputra, which caused widespread havoc in Assam in July through devastating floods, was once again in October on the rampage in 1979. Over a million people in seven out of ten districts in the State were affected, rendering a good many of them homeless. Assam has been going through such ordeals almost every year.

This raises the fundamental issue of the importance of adopting a multi-purpose approach towards flood control, envisaging construction of storage reservoirs in the head reaches of the river systems alongside of protection works. Afforestation soil conservation and water shed management have to be taken up on a big scale if lasting results are to be achieved. Flood control measures undertaken so far under a national programme initiated in 1954 offer protection to less than 30% of the flood prone area. It was estimated by the working groups of the Irrigation Department as much as Rs. 1200 crores should be set apart for the period of 1978-83 for flood control alone. Surely such an outlay is beyond the financial competence of Indian Government.

Andhra Pradesh is one of the seven drought-prone States. Once in every five years, severe drought devastates the rural economy of Andhra. This year's (1979) drought has affected 181 out of 213 Taluks. Because of the failure of the South West monsoon, the rain fall came down to 293 mm in June-August from the normal of 43 mm. Besides the terrible losses to millions of peasants due to the drying-up of the crops and consequent destruction of the working capital, as many as 52 lakhs (5.2 million) of workers are rendered unemployed. Andhra Government estimates that Rs. 115 crores are needed for providing relief works for the unemployed; besides Rs. 200 crores to be advanced to self-employed peasants to generate jobs and employment on their lands in anti-

icipation of the next crop. The Central Study Group of Experts from the Planning Commission recommended central assistance of Rs. 200 crores, as against State's demand for Rs. 294.5 crores.

It is obviously beyond the capacity of most of the countries, in the third world, to face the financial challenges posed by such natural calamities, within foreseeable future, even if the requisite technological know-how is available within some of them. It is therefore petty-fogging and vain National pride on the part of any National leadership to delay in demanding that the UNITED Nations and their allied world Organisations to organise a World Body with adequate annual funds to supplement whatever resources each of the affected nations is able to mobilise in order to mitigate the losses caused by and disastrous consequences flowing from National calamities. It is only when the world as a whole shoulders its share of such costs of National Calamities Mitigation, the LIMA declaration in favour of helping Developing Nations to achieve 25% share in World's industrial development by 2000 A.D. can be anywhere near achievement. Indeed, any effort, however heroic and nationally self-denying, to organise crop and cattle insurance by any of the senior developing nations can be successful and move to be really beneficial to the self-employed peasants and toiling rural masses only under the umbrella of such a World Insurance Scheme and Fund to mitigate the short term as well as long term losses caused by National Calamities.

I consider it a privilege to be able to bring out this broucher putting together some of the ideas and forceful pleas of Prof. N.G. Ranga on the topic of "Natural Calamities." In 1970 Sri V. V. Giri, the then President of India, described Prof. Ranga "as a leader of whom the whole country should

feel proud of and indebted to ... .... He is a man who does not know what self interest is ... .... Mr. Ranga always thought of the country and its problems. He followed his conscience and was never afraid of speaking out his mind," Prot. Ranga always thinks of the problems of the rural poor, small peasants and self-employed. He argues eloquently on the problems of the poor all over the world and suggests measures for amelioration of the poor and suffering.

We brought together some of his suggestions and persuasive arguments and forceful pleas to mitigate the sufferings of the victims all over the world of the Natural Disasters. He urges the National Governments and World Forums to think of the formation of World Food Insurance Natural Disasters Mitigation Fund and the Commission to administer it backed by complementary National Funds in each country.

I am thankful to friends Sri D. Veeraiah and Mr. Srinarayana, for their cooperation in bringing out this small brochure.

Guntur  
31-10-1979

*B. BHUJANGA RAO*

*We Dedicate To*



**B H A R A T I D E V I**

I adopt Bharati as my daughter!

—MAHATMA GANDHI



# TRIBUTES

“One of the most worthy of the women of India passed away on September 27. I had always great affection for Sri N.G. Ranga. My affection for Bharati Devi, his wife, was even greater and inlaid with the deepest respect. Acharya Ranga claimed to be a peasant. But the real peasant was Bharati Devi. She went to prison in the movement for freedom. She never claimed a price or a reward for it as so many do. Her death has plunged me in the deepest grief.”

—Rajaji.

Rashtrapathi Bhavan  
New Delhi - 4  
October 9, 1972

My dear Ranga garu,

I was grieved to learn of the demise of Bharati Devi. I know how you will feel this calamity and what a void is created in your life and of our nation. She was indeed, a pillar of strength to you in all your constructive work and was one of our respected leaders in Andhra.

Yours sincerely  
V. V. Giri

New Delhi  
September 29, 1972

Dear Prof. Ranga,

I am grieved by the news which came soon after I wrote to you. Besides being your companion in all the causes that you took up, Shrimati Bharati Devi was a fine national worker in her own right. My sympathy and condolences to your loss.

Yours sincerely,  
Indira Gandhi



# FEDERATION OF RURAL PEOPLES ORGANISATION

**PROF. N. G. RANGA**  
President

Bharathi Kuteer  
VIJAYAWADA-10

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*Dear Sir,*

I am sending herewith for your consideration and sympathetic co-operative action, the appeal for the establishment, under the auspices of the United Nations, F. A. O., W. H. O. etc. of a World Food Insurance Natural Disasters Mitigation Fund and Commission for its administration. Dr. Adekke Boerma, Director-General of World Food Agriculture Organisation expressed his fears on 25-6-1975 in Rome at the Ministers' Meeting of the World Food Council formed by the Rome Conference on World Food in November 1974 that the hopes entertained by U. S. Secretary of State Mr. Henry Kissinger and endorsed by Dr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of U. N. O. to banish hunger in ten years are "unlikely to be successful". Why? Because the fate of 500 million under-nourished people depends both on the "political will of the governments of the 30% of global population of prosperous Countries where most of the food is produced, as

Mr. Bradford Morse, U. N. Under Secretary-General has warned the Food Council's ministers in June 1975 but also on the frequent unforeseeable visitations of natural calamities, causing disastrous disarray of food production. Even the 3.6% annual increase of food production, planned for by the Rome Conference for the next decade is subject to vicissitudes of seasons, which affect developing countries so much more severely whatwith their built-in resistance to governmental efforts to check population growths. Therefore, we take this liberty to stress the urgency for concerting measures such as the formation of World Food Insurance Natural Disasters Mitigation Fund and the requisite Commission to administer it and backed by complimentary National Funds in each country.

I may assure you that the signatories are specially interested in increase of food production, control of population growth, elimination of under-nourishment and hunger of the 500 million under-fed peoples. They wish to promote the protection and prosperity of the self-employed peasants and other producers of food, weavers and other artisans.

I request you to endorse this appeal and otherwise promote the suggested approach, as an indispensable adjunct to other schemes which are already being considered by the World Food Council.

*Yours very sincerely,*

N. G. RANGA.

# WORLD FOOD INSURANCE

## APPEAL FOR

### WORLD FOOD INSURANCE FUND AND COMMISSION

#### By Indian Public Workers and Leaders of Peasants.

We are glad to express our appreciation and agreement, with the Call sent out in 1974 to Governments and Peoples for Action by the Population Crisis Committee, incorporated at Washington D. C. signed by distinguished Citizens from over 100 Countries. We are happy that the Secretary General of UNITED NATIONS, Mr. Kurt Waldheim has endorsed the Call of World Food Conference held in Rome in November 1964.

We particularly note the following historic truths mentioned in it :

- i) "The absolute number of desperately poor are far greater than ever before in history" and
- ii) "growing populations, denied sufficient food needed for survival, resist all efforts to secure a peaceful world".
- iii) "a bad monsoon in Asia or a drought in North America" and we can add cyclones, typhoons, droughts, floods, forest fires, visitations of wide-spread locusts or other pests, epidemics affecting human beings, cattle etc , "could mean severe malnutrition for hundreds of millions and death for many millions".
- iv) Such calamitous failures of food supplies -- Food being recognised by the Call also as being "an essential

condition of life to all people – “have created and will create serious social unrest in many parts of the world and particularly severe in countries where hunger and diseases that thrive on under-nourished bodies are prevalent”.

Millions of people come to be famished, unemployed and lose all their capital and credit whenever such calamities overtake them. To relieve their distress and to rehabilitate them is often beyond the capacity of many nations in the third world.

“The need to seek solutions is pressing” to repeat, “the Crisis” warning. A “Comprehensive World Food Plan” must include plan for insuring food production and producers of food from the vicissitudes of nature, such as drought, floods, Cyclones.

To protect land, lakes and forests, standing crops and cattle and to save peasants from Malaria, tse tse fevers and black water fever, cholera is as important as to produce more per acre and per peasant. To save peasantry, agriculture and their equipment from consequences of such natural calamities is even more prudent and important.

It is impossible for the Governments and Parliaments of such nations to exhort their people to repose faith in World Peace, and World Order based on social justice and peaceful settlement of international conflicts, when they find that while they are not at all protected from any of the natural calamities, all possible social securities against unemployment, ill-health, and crop and cattle insurances etc., are available for so long in all Western and other prosperous countries.

Contributory Crop and Cattle Insurance Schemes on a National scale are possible, only so long as there are nationally and internationally financed schemes for insuring the people from wide spread national disasters caused by floods, droughts, cyclones, epidemics and pests, that is, vicissitudes of seasons and other natural elements. So far there are no such national level insurance schemes against their evil results. Most of the Nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America are perilously within the grip of such oft-recurring crises and they are never secure from the fangs of famine and pestilence. Only on the basis of such constructive and protective efforts, can any nation establish Crop, Cattle and other insurances and ensure better production and distribution. Until and unless the agricultural masses are suitably protected from the ravages of these natural calamities, there cannot be effective, stable, secure and growing production of food and other agricultural produce to ensure adequate supplies of nourishment to growing populations.

Therefore one of the most important and basic things to do by world community is to take suitable steps on a world-scale to ensure the protection of masses from such calamities and to rehabilitate the affected victims and to reconstruct from time to time the damaged sectors of agricultural and also social economy. So the World Community that is, the United Nations and its associate organisations, such as the F.A.O., W.H.O., ought to undertake the development of a World Food Insurance Natural Calamities Mitigation Commission or World Insurance against National Calamities to operate as the Apex authority backed by nationally based Food Insurance Commissions (F.I.C). The national F. I. Cs should be provided with adequate funds from the respective national budgets to be administered by local governments free from any outside interference, The World Commission

has to be provided with annual grants from all the countries, more especially from the prosperous and non-impooverished countries whose per capita income as well as per decade growth of production and wealth are above a particular level of socio-economic development and prosperity. The funds of both the national and world commissions are to be permanently funded, so that schemes of protection, rehabilitation and development, ranging over five to ten years can be undertaken by the National Commissions and strengthened with suitable grants from the World Commission.

The severity of these national disasters can be minimised, though gradually, by undertaking simultaneously and often over decades, many constructive and developmental schemes. For instance afforestation and tree-planting and tree-protection schemes can arrest expansion or growth of deserts, minimise loss of soil by erosion. The severity of droughts can be mitigated by the construction, deepening, de-silting, repairing of major and minor irrigation works, exploitation of underground water resources, through tube-wells, rigs, wind-mills, utilisation of water power through many small-scale hydel schemes, and the conversion of desert, drought-oriented areas for agricultural uses through shower-spray watering, sub-soil anti-evaporation measures and also by desalinisation of sea-water, or brackish water. Most of the lands which are liable to frequent submersion resulting in water-logging can be salvaged, as in Holland. Break-waters can be controlled, sea erosion checked. Such wasting diseases as hook-worm black-water-fever, epidemics such as Cholera and the international menace of locusts have to be battled with and seasonal crop-pests and cattle-epidemics have to be scientifically fought. By all such long-term protective and developmental measures, undertaken in a planned manner on national and international scale, the frequency and intensity

of these natural calamities can be minimised or mitigated. By such and similar protective and developmental steps "disastrous breakdowns in World Food Supply can be avoided" or minimised. It is a task for "global partnership and demands of social justice make imperative" to quote from the Call from Washington.

But such protective activities demand enormous funds, which are beyond the capacity, even over five or ten years of most of the nations in the Third World. These developmental works have to be protective and rehabilitative. They can and ought to be undertaken by concerned local governments, with the co-operation of the International Community, in the name of humanity as a whole. Their costs would be decreasing in terms of human efforts, apart from their monetary equivalents, from decade to decade in proportion to the effectiveness of the protective and developmental activities of the proposed World Food Insurance Commission backed by the National Commissions. Indeed so many of present-day activities of the World Food and Agriculture Organisation, W H O. and similar World Welfare institutions are making their own contributions. The proposed World (Food) Insurance Commission against Natural Disasters is expected to coordinate, broaden and intensify their activities and develop this protective armour against natural vicissitudes and calamities.

To provide interim relief, from damages caused to property, crops, cattle, houses and to save agriculturists and their cattle from starvation, cold or summer heat is the first charge on the local State or national unit of such a World Commission. To help the hundreds of thousands of them to rebuild their houses and cattle-sheds and provide themselves with milch cattle and ploughing bullocks or tractors etc. and

to obtain employment on their re-structured farms houses and enable them to obtain working capital etc. is the second rehabilitation charge to be borne in Part by the World Commission. These essential primary aids alone are not enough to salvage the afflicted masses, since they are chronically underfed, under-employed and on the verge of social submersion or traditional depression. If such masses who are vulnerable to such hitherto unrelieved and uncontrolled natural vicissitudes or calamities are to be truly salvaged as good enough producers, then the proposed Commissions have to undertake long-term programmes of fighting such vicissitudes, by anticipating their blows and weakening or minimising their evil impacts and slowly gaining calculable control over their capacity to damage humanity as in the past. The construction of permanent houses-cyclone proof, earthquake proof and also dams and other works against floods and development of irrigation works and other anti-drought projects against famines are the major charge on the funds of such a Commission.

To this end, we suggest that initially a World Fund of 5 billion dollars should be created plus annual contributions to be made by every nation, in accordance with its capacity. We welcome U.S. President Mr. Ford's offer of an annual fund of a billion dollars from U. S. announced at the latest meeting of the 24 Nation Organisation (Paris in May 1975) for economic corporation and development. The Soviet and Chinese Groups of nations should certainly be able to offer atleast as much more.

The details as to how the national and international funds are to be collected, pooled and utilised can be worked out by the concerned Commissions, on the advice of F. A. O. and U. N. O.

It is heartening to hear (May 1975) from U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger say, even after recent developments in S.E.Asia, that U.S. continues to recognise that "the global problems in food are a Central, moral and political challenge. A world order in which tens of millions starve and millions more are under-nourished will never be accepted as just."

We appeal to the United Nations to agree to shoulder this humane responsibility of insuring the World's Food Production and its Producers from natural calamities.

**Sponsoring Organisations:-**

**Federation of Rural Peoples Organisations of India  
(Regd.) New Delhi.**

**Farmers Federation of India (Regd.)  
"Rural India" Editor H. S. Dwivedi, Bombay.**

**National Union of Indian Agriculture,  
New Delhi.**

**Andhra Pradesh Kisan Sammelan &**

**100 Prominent leaders and Organisers of Self  
Employed masses of India.**

ENDORSED BY  
SECOND INDIAN AGRICULTURE CONGRESS  
SRINAGAR

25, October, 1978

Whereas farmers and agricultural workers, constituting the single largest sector of working people in any country, continue to be the poorest and most depressed despite spectacular increases in production and productivity in the agricultural sector during these three decades of World Food Organisation operations,

Whereas this most unfortunate comparative poverty of theirs and even smaller share in the growing GNP and general prosperity is due occasionally to consequences of natural calamities such as cyclones, floods, droughts, hail-storms, pests, epidemic (among people & cattle) and wide - spread conflagration and whereas it is now realised that it is the duty of the whole community in any country and the whole world to bear the major share of the brunt of such calamities and thus provide the maximum possible conditions of general economic safety and security of the farming community,

Whereas it is beyond the capacity of any one country to meet the challenge of such calamities, including provision of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction needed by the afflicted masses of peasantry and other rural folk,

Whereas any national scheme of crop, cattle or fire insurance can become viable only when there is a worldwide insurance scheme against these National Calamities, which affect whole regions and other peoples in an unlimited, indiscriminate and incalculable manner, and

Whereas it is high time that the world humanity should come forward to save the farming masses and their hard-earned and long-time accumulated farming equipment and social wealth from such total destruction and disablements caused by nature,

This congress appeals to the United Nations Assembly and the Food and Agriculture Organization and other allied World Organizations to concert suitable measures to organize a permanent Insurance Fund on world and continental basis against natural calamities and call upon each country to make its suitable annual contribution to this Fund.

This Congress, also, being mindful of the fact that the developing countries are more liable to suffer from such natural vicissitudes with much less capacity to recover from other immediate and long-term debilitating economic and social consequences and are therefore, in need of earlier and greater degree of protection and assistance from such world-level insurance scheme, would like to remind the World Organisations that the process of modernisation in agricultural sector consistent with the economic prosperity of farming masses can only be ensured by providing this World Insurance Fund which alone can place them on a par with other sections of population.

This Congress also urges on the Government of India to take initiative in various concerned World Organisations to mobilise world opinion to make the United Organisations to accept this long neglected responsibility and liberate agricultural masses from the crushing and debilitating burdens of natural calamities.

H.M. Patel  
Member of Parliament  
(Lok Sabha)

D-11/251, Vinay Marg,  
New Delhi  
Vallabh Vidyanagar,  
June 14, 1975.

My dear Ranga,

Thank you for your letter dated the 9th of June, which I have just received.

I am in entire agreement with the approach and will appreciate it if you include my name also in the list of signatories.

I hope you are well.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- H.M. Patel  
(H.M. PATEL)

*Mr. Patel became a Cabinet Minister in the Janatha Government in N, Delhi between 1977-79.*

No. 2504-From/G'/75  
Minister of External Affairs  
India  
New Delhi,

September 18, 1975

Dear Prof. Ranga,

I thank you for your letter of 9th September enclosing a brochure on the need for World Food Insurance Fund.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-  
(Y. B. Chavan)

**PRIME MINISTER**

No. 565-P.M.O./79

New Delhi  
February 17, 1979

Dear Prof. Ranga,

Please refer to your letter of the 28th November, 1978 in which you made a suggestion in favour of a World Insurance Fund for protection against natural calamities. This has been got examined by the concerned Ministries. We find that the major donor countries of the world connected with the World Food Programme are not enthusiastic even about the expansion of the emergency aid operations. These countries prefer bilateral aids to strengthen the existing multilateral arrangements of all emergency aid. A proposal for the creation of a World Insurance Fund, therefore, is unlikely to meet with a favourable response from such countries. Apart from this, I doubt the necessity and utility of having such a Fund on an international level since it would involve elaborate organisation, delays in making relief material available in time and would introduce an international organisation for assessment of a domestic situation. The bulk of expenditure on financing relief measures requires local resources and local efforts with very little import circumstances, it should be possible for us to meet the situation arising from natural calamities without foreign assistance. However, we will continue to explore how existing emergency relief arrangements available with the United Nations and its agencies can be strengthened and improved upon.

Yours sincerely,

Sd -

(Morarji Desai)

Prof. N.G. Ranga, M.P.

37, North Avenue,

New Delhi-110001.

### **Prof. Ranga answers Prime Minister's Point**

The leaders of people and Political Parties and governments of the former Colonial Countries have to overcome their sense of resistance against any interference from any such international authority or Commission with their autonomy in organising relief for and rehabilitation of the areas and people afflicted by such Natural Calamities. The United Nations Organisation has to assure them that no international interference would be superimposed on them, to the detriment of their national freedom or sovereignty.

The National Study Team of Experts would be free to invite the Co-operation or advice of Experts of the UNO in preparing the plans for the long term projects, needed to mitigate, if not to eliminate, the recurrence and intensity of such National Disasters. That is, international Co-operation may be invited, if found by the concerned Governments and their experts, to be necessary and advisable, to finalise their schemes for reconstructing their damaged social economy and developing their national plans, calculated to protect the recurrence of such Natural Calamities of national and international dimensions. So long as such guarantees of such voluntary and non-interfering but only complementary and co-operative nature of international alliance or assistance is assured, no nation or its government need fear any encroachment upon the sovereignty and political independence of its people.

Moreover, it is not proposed that the suggested International Agency should participate in the earlier processes of offering instant relief to and rehabilitation of the victims of National Calamity or even in the short-time repairs and temporary restoration of Public Communications and Private

housing. The good offices, by way of technical assistance and guidance of that authority is needed, its financial aid-by way of participation in the Construction of Preventive Works and multi-purposes projects calculated to mitigate the harmful direct or indirect impact of whatever Natural Disaster is feared to descend upon any country, is the principal charge on the resources of the proposed International Authority. It is to be guided by the Experts and Governments of concerned nations, deciding upon the nature, and degree of its offer of assistance in terms of funds and expertise. For instance, in regard to Cyclone-prone areas, Construction of Cyclone proof houses for the poor, bridges, culverts, and public social institutions would be the primary charge on it. Similarly flood-proof irrigation projects, multi-purposes schemes and houses for the poor on high-level grounds etc. will invite its contributions - in part - for the Construction of irrigation projects. It will be in the interests of the concerned nations to invoke the advice and co-operation of such an international Authority and experts of international repute and experience in preparing their long-term plans of developing their schemes of mitigation, if not elimination of whatever Natural Calamities that their nations are prone to suffer from and devise protective measures.

Anyhow, it is in the interests of suffering humanity that the afflicted nations should be helped by the World at large and the concerned nations should be prepared to invite and welcome advice and assistance offered in a comparative manner to provide full, satisfactory help to their masses, living in areas and times of Natural Disasters.

## **AFRICA'S DROUGHTS AND FAMINES**

African countries are as much liable as Asian countries, if not more, to suffer frequently from terrible Natural Disasters, especially prolonged droughts and resultant famines.

Mauritania, Senegal, Ethiopia, Upper Niger, Mali, Chad, having more than 30 million people suffered from 3 to 5 years long drought between 1963 and 1973. Hundreds of thousands of Nomadic people and many times more valuable live-stock died of hunger, thirst and severe, unrelieved heat and moving waves of burning sands.

Mr. Claive Sterling, writing in the Readers Digest of September 1974 said that "more would have perished if an international air lift has not been organised to drop food where starvation was only days or hours away."

Those suffering states estimated their needs for international assistance at Rs. 760 crores. They would need "water-developing projects including bore-hole filter-points and also afforestation development.

In 1973, donar countries sent only 625 000 tons of food grains against twice as much needed by those sehel (drought-prone African countries.)

To mitigate the ravages of such periodical droughts in and around the Sahara desert states international fraternal advice, expert assistance and financial aid are needed continuously over long periods for a) afforestation, b) Exploiting under-ground water resources through bore-hole c) Regulating the number of cattle d) family planning in harmony with limited nature's response to humanity's needs

for protection and social progress. The offer of such international aid and comradeship in their need ought not to be condescending or bossing.

True, these countries need as Mr. Claive sterling observed "a plan of land management, tree and forage planting and water-control" besides development of road, rail and air communication, store-houses for grain and fodder storages.

All these have to be organised by the local governments, with the international technical and financial help, without creating any suspicion of international interference, political or economic. This can best be done through the proposed world-level famine and food insurance and Natural Disasters Mitigation Commission.

Let it be specifically remembered that the newly emergent free nations of Asia and Africa are naturally sensitive to any air of dictation or condescension from the affluent peoples and their governments. So their governments have to be persuaded to utilise international aid for such specific disaster-Mitigation projects-in the frequency and intensity, when it descends, on any area or people, such as a) afforestation b) opening up of underground water-resources and their economical, regenerative and constructive management. As far as possible, the internationally, sensitive and activated social service organisation, such as the OXFAM would be able to help the afflicted peoples more effectively and creatively if they decide to supplement the efforts of the proposed world level commission. They can certainly alert that commission into timely and effective service through their catalic surveys, experimental services and advance relief activities.

# CHALLENGE OF FLOODS

Prof. N. G. RANGA

One of the natural disasters which cause vast damages to the social economy of Countries and their Peoples is Floods. Let me illustrate the dimensions of this scourge, the calamity it can cause to individuals affected, and the nation-level damage to Communications, other socio-economic environment and laboriously built-equipment, by quoting from the Pamphlet entitled "FLOOD CONTROL" issued in May 1979 by the Government of India.

"In the country, as a whole, it is estimated that an area of about 25.0 Million hectares is prone to floods, .....The area affected annually averages about 7.8 million hectares & at times, it may be as much as 17.0 Million hectares, as it was in 1976.

"The average number of persons affected generally is around 24.0 Millions.

"The average annual damage has been assessed to be around Rs. 2400 Millions, though in 1976, it was estimated at Rs. 8860 millions and in 1977, it soared to around Rs. 11300 Millions.

"Preliminary reports received from the States, show, the damage caused by the 1978 floods, was of the following dimensions:-

Population affected	:	63 35	Millions
Cropped area	:	9.12	Million hectares
Value of crops lost	:	1640	Million Rupees
Huts are Houses destroyed	:	3.67	Millions
Value	:	320	Million Rupees
Lives lost-human	:	2224	People
Livestock	:	216,346.	"

## CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS ASSISTANCE TO STATES IN RELIEF WORK

“Visitation of floods in any part of the Country is viewed as a national Calamity. Army and Air force Units are the first to join the Civil Administration in rescue and relief operations of the flood affected people. Boats and helicopters have to be pressed into service for rescue and evacuation operations and for the supply of food, water, and medicines to the marooned people.

‘ Prevention of epidemics, rehabilitation and reconstruction calls for massive resource mobilisation.

“Immediate short and long range programmes to mitigate suffering and bring the economy of the area on an even keel are initiated.

“Central teams are sent to the flood affected areas to assess the damage and to determine the quantum of assistance required by the states.

“Foodgrains worth tens of millions of rupees are released as gratuitous relief for Victims.

“Essential medicines, disinfectants, insecticides, vaccine and anti-snake venom serum are supplied. The Central Advance Plan assistance to the State is utilised for accelerating approved plan schemes as also restoration and repairs of roads, Irrigation works, flood control works, power transmission lines and educational buildings, raising and shifting of ring bunds, Construction of houses, soil conservation, rural drinking water schemes, purchases of medicines, etc.”

International assistance, from voluntary social aid organisations, can be useful to supplement this kind of relief and rehabilitation work being undertaken by the concerned National and State Governments. Indeed such voluntary help, offered so generously and expeditiously soon after the 1977 Andhra Cyclone proved to be of immense encouragement and heart warming to the affected victims and the local government authorities who were grappling with the consequences of that awful calamity and the suffering peoples.

But the equally important and inescapable need for taking permanent and preventive steps has to be realised. The undertaking of such steps, their Planning, Financing and Execution is often beyond the financial capacity of the governments and peoples concerned.

In the case of many a newly liberated, small countries and their smaller and poorer peoples and with smaller, less experienced and ill-equipped administrative services - Civil, Technical etc.- the responsibility of the United Nations and the richer, larger and older nations in particular is so much greater.

Even in the case of such a large Country as India with its mature and well-developed administrative equipment and planned system of controlling the rivers and long established relief machinery for dealing with such disasters as floods, famines etc., the financial burdens are found to be far beyond its capacity.

For instance, the Central Government provided for an outlay of Rs. 6750 millions for undertaking measures to control and check floods during the Medium Term Plan 1978-83. But the Working Group indicated that the engineering measures alone needed to "CONTROL" Floods would cost Rs. 12000 millions.

It is estimated that the engineering works for a 7 year-period would need Rs. 13170 millions, watershed management for a period of 20 years would cost Rs. 27240 millions.

“The Multi-disciplinary Working Group’ prepared an integrated project and plan of action for **controlling and Mitigating** the effects of floods within a short period of five to seven years in the Indo-Gangetic basin. Its recommendation covers an outlay of Rs. 10050 millions for engineering works, Rs. 6990 millions towards land management, Rs. 185 millions for modernising and improving existing flood forecasting organisation and Rs. 50 millions for flood zoning for the next 5 years. All this in addition to the demand for Rs. 27240 millions for the execution of 20 years plan.

And, the Work undertaken by Indian Governments (at Central and State levels) and already implemented upto March 1978 since 1954 include the Construction of 10,7 0 Kms of embankments, 19,070 Kms of drainage Channels, 266 town-protection schemes and raising of 4,700 villages above high food level.

International participation in the preventive steps needed to be taken to mitigate the damages liable to be caused by such natural disasters and also steps to stall the periodicity or frequency of the occurrence of such calamities and when possible to avoid their happening is absolutely necessary, in the interests of humanity affected, irrespective of the national sensitiveness of the concerned governments.

For instance, “Creation of reservoirs has a very distinct impact upon the reduction in flood damages”. Wherever the river waters have been developed fully, problems of floods are minimised. Much of the surplus waters which otherwise do tremendous damage can be conserved by con-

struction of reservoirs and utilised for the development of irrigation and generation of Power. "Afforestation, allied soil conservation and land management measures form an integral part of the flood control programme".

Therefore, it is necessary that the United Nations and its allied organisations should make periodical studies of the progress being made in different Countries by their local peoples and governments to come to grips with the Short-term and long term damages liable to be caused and actually being inflicted by such Natural Calamities and the steps being taken by local governments to mitigate the recurrence, and impact of those disasters or challenges and then decide upon the nature, extent of international responsibility and assistance by way of Partnership, to be offered by the U.N. through its organisations, over short-range as well as on long-term basis.

### **'SUPER FLOOD' DISASTERS**

Heavy rains breached the dam across the MACHCHU river in the State of Gujarat, Western India, on 11th August 1979. The flood waters 4.5 metres deep inundated MORVI town and the neighbouring villages. According to the official estimate, the deluge killed 1,000 people. Uniformed reports put the toll at 5,000 to 10,000. All the huts were destroyed, and 10% of the pucca houses were damaged.

Fifteen years ago, about 2,000 people died in BELLUNA, ITALY when flood waters overtopped the VAIONT dam. Four years earlier a dam burst in FRANCE, with a death toll of more than 400.

From "THE HINDU" August 14, 1979.

## SHARE THE CATASTROPHE WITH THE FLOOD-AFFECTED

Excessive rains have caused havoc in many districts of Rajasthan this year. Unprecedented floods in Luni and its tributaries have caused unimaginable devastation in Jodhpur, Barmer, Jalore and Pali districts. Nearly sixteen thousand square kilometres area was submerged and hundreds of villages were encircled by flood waters and cut off. Help of army jawans was sought for rescue and relief operations in the flood-hit areas and helicopters were used for air-dropping food packets to the marooned people. Thousands of houses collapsed and belongings of their owners washed away.

Nearly three lakhs of persons were hit by this calamity. According to information received so far, many persons have been washed away and many others are reported missing. Traffic was disrupted following breach of railway lines, roads and bridges and communications were also dislocated. Nearly 1.5 lakh cattle perished in the floods. Losses amounting to crores of rupees were caused.

The State Government has made all possible arrangements to give relief to the people in the flood-affected areas. Special arrangements have been made to provide medical relief to the sick and prevent outbreak of diseases. Looking to the colossal loss of human and cattle life, it is also the duty of the people of Rajasthan, Rajasthanis residing in other States and all citizens of our country to come forward to help the people affected by these unprecedented floods.

I believe, even small help given by you will be an immense source of strength to the flood-hit people and

enable them to start their lives anew. Let us all be their partners in this hour of calamity.

Contributions for flood relief can be sent by cheques or Money Orders to the Secretary to the Chief Minister in Jaipur or to the Collector of Jodhpur, Barmer, Jalore, Pali and Ajmer districts.

**BHAIRON SINGH SHEKHAWAT,**  
*Chief Minister, Rajasthan,*  
*Dated 12-8-79.*

(Published in The Hindu of Madras)

## THE HAVOC CAUSED BY THE NOVEMBER 1977 CYCLONE IN THE ANDHRA STATE

The two Coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Guntur and Krishna, on the Bay of Bengal, suffered unprecedented loss of life and property on November 19, 1977 when the terrific cyclone lashed and razed the coastal region. The extent of damage and destruction was colossal as it was vividly reported in "THE READER'S DIGEST" November 1978. Standing Crops to the tune of Rs. 355 Crores were destroyed. More than 10,000 persons were engulfed by the tidal wave in Divi Taluk alone. Half a Million of Cattle and Livestock were lost. Nearly two hundred persons were buried alive under the debris of a Church in the village, KOMALI, in Guntur District. Aid was rushed from all over the World to the dazed survivors.

## CYCLONES IN ANDHRA

**Calling Attention in Rajya Sabha raised on 2-8-77 regarding distressed caused to Paddy Producers of Andhra Pradesh.**

Shri N. G. RANGA (Andhra Pradesh) : I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation to the distress caused to the paddy producing peasants of Andhra Pradesh due to the failure of Government to ensure the purchase of paddy and rice of October-November 1976 harvest which was damaged by cyclonic rains, at usual procurement prices by the Food Corporation of India and marketing it as sub standard paddy and bearing the loss— — and resulting in extreme paucity of working capital for the current paddy growing operations.

I am glad that the hon. Minister has admitted that extensive damage has been caused in a number of Andhra districts — — — and the total damage was estimated to be more than Rs. 190 Crores. What the Government has been doing is nothing when compared to the total damage suffered by the people and the losses that are being sustained by them for want of market for their damaged rice. My hon. friend has said that the specifications have been lowered with regard to the quality of paddy, the Food Corporation is purchasing only 4.8 lakh tonnes of rice. To-day there is three to four times as much rice with the peasants, waiting to be purchased but there is nobody to purchase it

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*Prof. Ranga urges the Govt. of India to purchase the total stocks of Paddy (1976-77 crop) lying with the Peasants in Andhra.*

The procurement price is Rs. 56 to 60. The damaged rice, if at all sold, is being sold only at Rs. 25 to 30, that too by headloads for local sales only. When will it be possible for them to sell the rest of it? They do not have working capital for the current agricultural season. I would like to ask the Government of India to further reduce the quality specifications. Secondly, I would like them to realise, — — when they have failed to provide any crop insurance and when they insisted that the peasants must be prepared to hand over their paddy at their compulsorily imposed procurement prices—that it is their minimum duty to purchase this paddy at the procurement price. They have not done it. I am demanding that the quality specifications should be reduced and then the whole of it should be taken over by the Food Corporation of India, and whatever losses would be sustained by the Food Corporation of India should be made good by the Government of India. Would they not be willing to give this much of support to the peasants when they have failed to provide even crop insurance or any other assistance to our people?

Shri SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : So far as the specifications are concerned, they cannot be relaxed any more because already a good deal of relaxation has been made and if they are relaxed any further, then the paddy procured will not be fit for human consumption. Keeping that in view, full relaxation had been given and it was only due that relaxation that we had been able to procure 4.8 lakh tonnes of paddy.

Shri N. G. RANGA :— — Are they prepared to purchase whatever damaged rice is there ?

Shri SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : No

Shri N.G. Ranga : You take it over and make good the loss.

Shri SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : The Food Corporation of India has to sell it in the market. The Food Corporation of India is not in a position to purchase all the damaged rice....

Shri N.G. RANGA : Is Government then prepared to take it over? I am not asking about the Food Corporation.

Shri SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Government is not in a position to purchase all the rice available there in a damaged condition.

Shri N.G. RANGA: Then, why impose this procurement?

# RELIEF OPERATIONS AMONG 1977 ANDHRA CYCLONE SUFFERERS

*By Andhra Government :*

For the relief of 14,666 Fishermen 42,828 Weavers an amount of Rs. 161.23 lakhs was spent for rehabilitation by way of replacement of boats, catamarans, tackle, yarn and nylon nets lost in the cyclone and tidal waves. 6 boat building yards were also opened for the purpose of manufacturing boats. These items were supplied at 75% subsidy and 25% loan basis in the tidal wave affected areas. In other affected areas the above articles were supplied at 50% subsidy basis and 50% loan basis.

*Weavers and Artisans :*

For 41,828 Weavers who suffered in Cyclone, a rehabilitation programme of about 2.25 crore has already been undertaken by way of financial assistance of Rs. 150/- to a weaver who lost his loom completely or partially and Rs.100/- by way of supply of yarn in kind.

Over 7,500 artisans of various categories, Cobblers, Tanners Tappers, Potters, Carpenters, Blacksmiths have been identified by A.P. Village Khadi & Village Industries Board and assistance to a tune of Rs. 68.5 lakhs has been given. In

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*Quoted From Andhra Pradesh Voluntary Organisations  
Brochure 1978 Published By Gandhi Gnan Mandir, Hyderabad  
By Andhra Government*

addition a number of voluntary organisations have been encouraged to distribute implement kits to a number of village artisans.

*Panchayat Raj Department :*

The Panchayat Raj Department have spent nearly Rs. 11.71 Crores till now for restoration of roads and bridges, buildings, irrigation works, drinking water works and for construction of link roads for Coastal Villages.

*Transport, Roads & Buildings Department :*

The Department has spent another Rs. 6.33 crores for restoration of roads and bridges, buildings and repairs of Ports and Godowns.

*Irrigation & Power Department :*

The Department has spent nearly Rs. 18.51 crores for the restoration of all the irrigation works including the drainage system, electrical installation of the APSEB and for raising a tidal bank.

*Industries Department :*

The Department has spent nearly Rs 3.16 crores for the rehabilitation of weavers and other village artisans.

*Education Department :*

The Department has spent about Rs. 1.28 Crores for restoration of schools and other institutions.

*Housing Programme : Voluntary Organisations & Philanthropic Institutions :*

The unique feature of this calamity was the spontaneous response from various Voluntary Organisations and Philanthropic Institutions both within the Country and Abroad

in a massive way. Without any appeal, contributions began to pour into the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and the total amount received so far crossed Rs 9,47 crores figure. Besides these donations, many Organisations have come forward with a massive assistance Programme of construction of houses and to put up Cyclone Shelters in the worst affected areas. Government have, therefore, undertaken a permanent housing Programme for rehabilitation of these affected persons. According to the scheme formulated by the Government, where a Voluntary Organisation comes forward to construct houses, 50% of Matching grant would be made from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund

Various Philanthropic Organisations came forward with their Voluntary offers to construct pucca RCC roofed houses as a measure of rehabilitation of the cyclone victims who were rendered homeless. Among such Voluntary and Philanthropic Organisations are the Red Cross (2000 houses), Ramakrishna Mission (1000), Gujarati Marvadi Relief & Welfare Committee (1083), Tata Relief Committee (600), AWARE (1500), Gurunanak Mission (200), The Nagpur Gita Vikas Mandal (100), Bharat Sevasram Sangh (40), Viswa Hindu Parishad (150), A.P. Cyclone Relief Committee (107), EFICOR (104), APSRTC (420), The Police Housing Corporation (330), The Cyclone Relief Committee, Karnataka (46), The Lions International (225) and the Maharashtra Citizen's Cyclone Relief Committee (1200). Apart from the Voluntary offers aided by the C.M.'s Cyclone Relief Fund, the Social Welfare Department proposed to get 3000 houses constructed by raising a loan from L.I.C.

### *Cyclone Shelters :*

The Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committee appointed by the Government of India inter-alia has recommended construction of Community Cyclone Shelters in the cyclone

prone areas conforming to suitable wind resistance specifications under a phased programme. The Government of A.P. accepted this recommendation and proposed to take up construction of cyclone shelters in all the eight coastal districts of the State according due priority to those villages which are nearer to the coast and which have few permanent constructions. In accordance with this decision, the Government announced a scheme of Matching Grant from the C.M.'s Relief Fund to Voluntary Organisations coming forward for construction of cyclone shelters. Guidelines have also been issued in this regard. After a detailed survey in each district, the respective District Collectors have assessed the need for cyclone shelters and submitted proposals to the Government. It has been estimated that a total number of about 1336 cyclone shelters will be required within 20 KMs belt along 1030 KMs of the Sea Coast. It is estimated that the total project may cost about Rs. 15 00 Crores in all. The Government of India have called for the details of the scheme which have since been furnished.

# CYCLONE IN ANDHRA

MAY 11th & 12th, 1979

## CALLING ATTENTION TO ANDHRA CYCLONE

Prof. N.G. Ranga (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have had experience of such calamities and we suffered from them for a number of years. In 1926 we had it in Nellore district and it had caused so much of havoc. Again in May 1959 it was there. Now within a year and six months twice we had it. I am all in favour of the suggestion made by Mr. Raju and reinforced by Mr. Reddy that there should be a permanent Authority established by a special legislation and provided with sufficient funds and also with necessary technical equipment so that it may move into an area as soon as such a calamity takes place. And then that Authority should also be provided with necessary funds in order to carry on reconstruction work, developmental work, year after year, in order to provide underground shelters, overground shelters also, and various other things that have got to be done in order to prevent or reduce the intensity of such calamities whenever they come and the damage they cause. And that can be done by building these casuarina and wind-breaking shelters and construction of a special road also all along the coast which would not be amenable to cyclone damage and which could be utilised during normal times also. All those steps will have to be taken by a permanent authority and that permanent authority should be provided with necessary powers as well as funds. I had made a

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*Excerpts From Prof. Ranga's Speech In The Parliament (Rajya Sabha) On 15-5-1979*

suggestion five years' ago for such an authority. I wish the Government of India had taken steps in that direction.

I had suggested that two big things should be done : One, Crop insurance in that area and the other, national and world-level insurance against such calamities. And there should be a national fund also. And as we have experienced even the last time, we need international help, and international help has come in some measure the last time, and those people who have come here are still busy constructing huts and hutments for those people who had suffered. Millions of people have been uprooted now, and they have to be provided with separate shelters. Each one of them will cost not less than Rs. 1,500. A bamboo costs now-a-days Rs. 2 to Rs. 3, and it has to be a good enough bamboo even Rs. 5 also. How would it be possible for them to rebuild a shelter with only Rs. 500 even if the Government wants to be generous enough with that much ? Therefore, a huge effort has got to be made.

And that is why I suggest that there should be a world insurance fund. The Government of India should take the initiative to reach the FAO, WHO and UNO and other international organisations to seek their assistance to constitute a world fund which should be strengthened by a national fund supported by funds administered by the State Governments.

I am glad, my hon. friend, the Minister, has said that the State Government had moved in this matter with necessary alacrity and efficiency and feeling. The Chief Minister has been moving over there. He has not thought of coming over here for his political party meetings. He has cancelled all the State functions for the next one week. I am glad he has done it, and I hope the Government of India also would show equally serious concern about this matter.

Then, Sir, immediately certain things have got to be done in addition to what all has suggested by my hon. friends. The people are now suffering from loss of their crops and long-standing orchards which need a long period of gestation. They have been destroyed. They have got to raise the orchards again. It means that for six or seven years they would have to be investing but they would not be getting any returns. For the last six years whatever they have done has been destroyed. Therefore, immediately moratorium has got to be declared. The Government of India and the State Governments will have to go into this matter because it is not only the private money-lenders and the co-operative banks but also the scheduled banks who are concerned and their co-operation will have to be sought under the leadership of the Reserve Bank of India. A moratorium has got to be declared there for all debts, of all those people-crop loans, consumption loans, short-term loans and mid-term loans also. And they should be assured that there would be no interest charged for the whole of this year and for the last as well as the next year also. Last year also they have suffered.

Secondly, reconstruction loans have got to be offered for the farmers, small farmers, medium-scale farmers as well as others, a few of them, who have got their holdings right up to the ceiling. All of them are now felled to the ground. They have got to be helped. Otherwise it would not be possible for the agricultural economy to begin to function again and pulsate Sir, the paddy crops is gone, the chilli crop is gone. Coconut trees are felled. Even palmyras, which are supposed to be the hardiest, have gone. Now in this atmosphere of devastation, the Government has got to give an assurance to the agriculturists that they need not be worried at all about their further in regard to credit, seed and various other inputs, and all those will be placed at their disposal.

Lastly, I support the view expressed by some of my friends that the Government of India should not be thinking along the usual, traditional lines that over and above Rs. 8.5 Crores of initial expenditure, they will share three-fourths of the cost of Reconstruction and relief work. No, I want the Government of India straightway to say that whether it may cost Rs. 20 Crores or Rs. 30 Crores, the whole of it is going to be footed by the Government of India on behalf of the whole of India. When a crisis like this had overtaken West Bengal, how did the Government of India behave? Even that would not be enough in a case like this.

Here it is as such the duty of the Central Government as it is of the State Government, because it is a national calamity caused by natural forces. In spite of the fact that a calamity like this occurred two years ago, our governments have failed to provide or to take the necessary permanent steps or even to devise permanent steps and place them before Parliament for acceptance. Therefore, now it is a kind of penance that we have to perform for our earlier failures. Let the Government come forward in a generous manner and help our people and tell them, we are here behind you, you need not be afraid of a repetition of this of a calamity; if and when a calamity of this kind overtakes you again the Government of India is there and it has already begun, to take necessary steps and to protect from this kind of damage.

Dr M. CHENNA REDDY  
Chief Minister

HYDERABAD  
D/ 25-5-1979

My dear Sri GORAY,

I am happy to inform you that our veteran leader Prof. N.G. Ranga is visiting U.K. for a 10 day tour, leaving this place on 31st instant. I have requested him to kindly give you an idea of the situation consequent of this cyclone. In fact this is more severe and extensive than what we faced in 1977, which was restricted to smaller area. As we were able to take prompt steps for evacuating about 3 lakhs of people, the loss of human lives has been considerably reduced to about 500 and odd, as against 10 thousands in the last cyclone. It is estimated that but for the evacuation, the loss of human life this time would have gone even beyond 75 thousands.

Yours

Sd/-

(M. CHENNA REDDY)

Sri N.G. Goray,  
Indian High Commissioner in U.K.,  
Indian House,  
LONDON.

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*Copy to Prof. N.G. Ranga, M.P., 36 North Avenue, New Delhi.*

# NATIONAL UNION OF AGRICULTURE (OF INDIA)

Prof. N.G. Ranga, B. Litt., (Oxon)  
D. Litt.,  
Member of Indian Parliament

37, North Avenue,  
New Delhi,  
Dated : 6-6-1979

Dear Sir,

We request you to peruse the enclosed reports, so far available from the Government of Andhra (Hyderabad) and New Delhi about the destruction of men, cattle, crops, orchards and houses and other properties caused by the Andhra Cyclone (May 11th and 12th, 1979) from the Bay of Bengal.

This crushing blow to a million small peasants and many more agricultural workers and other landless backward classes has come *on top of the sufferings inflicted by the earlier Andhra Cyclone of November, 1978* in Divi and the Coastal areas of Krishna, Guntur Districts, in which several thousands of people, many more cattle died and lakhs of poor people made homeless. The rehabilitation and reconstruction of that local social economy being attempted by the Andhra Government, aided by the Central Government and various national and international social organisations is not yet completed.

It is a great consolation to the present sufferers that the State and Central Governments have hastened to organise sympathetic, 'instant' relief measures; mobilising official and

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*Covering letter circulated along with the reports on cyclonic havoc caused in Andhra on 11th & 12th of May, 1979.*

unofficial contributions to succour the bereaved families and shelterless millions of the poor folk, as detailed in the accompanying report from Andhra State Government.

Rehabilitation of the sufferers and reconstruction of their social environment and preventive and protective measures in anticipation of such calamities would cost so much more and take more time.

Such calamities, that is, floods, draughts, consequent famines, earthquakes, forest fires, epidemics, conflagrations, cyclones, tornadoes, overtake every country now and then. But the social economies of less developed countries, with larger populations below subsistency (poverty) levels, in Asia, Latin, America, Africa are less able to withstand such sudden calamities and recover from their onslaughts.

Realising that it is beyond the capacity of State Governments to meet the financial challenge posed by such calamities, the Government of India has offered to meet 75% of all the expenditure needed to be made annually on the mitigation of Natural Calamities over and above the initial 85 million rupees.

Voluntary organisations - National and International like the OXFAM have come forward to supplement the Governmental relief measures. But all this has not been enough.

There is great need for the world to supplement all these efforts, if effective and long term aid is to be given to the sufferers, such as Construction of Cyclone-proof, Earthquake-proof houses, irrigation and drainage works, protected water-supply schemes, epidemic-proof public health and sanitary facilities.

Therefore we have appealed as long ago as 1975 to the United Nations and World Food and Agriculture Organisations through the Federation of Rural People Organisations and the resolution of our annual session of the National Union of Agriculture (January, 1979) to develop a World Level Natural Calamities (Disasters) Mitigation (and Insurance) fund to supplement what all the afflicted nations can do, to undertake adequate reconstruction of the social economy of the suffering peoples.

We now seek your sympathetic support for the desired World effort.

Yours very sincerely,

Sd./ N. G. RANGA  
President

# REPORT ON CYCLONE DAMAGE - MAY 1979 ANDHRA PRADESH

A severe cyclonic storm with a core of hurricane winds had lashed the coastal Andhra right from Nellore district in the south to East Godavari district in the north, causing heavy loss of life and cattle wealth and damage to properties - both public and private. The cyclone has disrupted and totally paralysed the roads and rail communications as well as telecommunications links and caused enormous damage to electrical installations and irrigation sources. The loss both in terms of human life and properties, even at a conservative estimate, is expected to be very heavy.

Soon after receiving cyclone warning, the Government have taken all precautionary measures necessary to prevent possible loss of life and damage to properties, in the light of the measures suggested by mitigation committee and as laid down in the model district plans. To this end, the district authorities of the coastal districts have been alerted well in advance to take all measures necessary for the protection of human life. Over 1,50,000 people have, consequently, been evacuated from vulnerable areas in Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna and East Godavari districts.

Torrential rains and stormy surges had swelled the drains, rivulets and rivers in the area causing breaches to irrigation tanks and inundation of low lying areas. Several areas particularly in Prakasam district have been converted into islands resulting in several thousands being marooned necessitating dropping of food. Details about loss of human

life and cattle wealth and damage to public and private property are still pouring in. As per the reports so far received, the death toll has reached 500, about 5 to 6 lakh houses are estimated to have collapsed or damaged. It is feared that when final reports from all the districts are received, the death toll might further go up and the property loss would be upto a tune of Rs. 681 crores.

Gratutous and other types of relief for various categories of victims I. E. Next of kin of those who lost their lives, those who lost live-stock and houses, agriculturists, weavers, fishermen and all types of artisans.

- 1) Rs. 1000 to the next of kin for every person dead not being a child below five years of age.
- 2) Rs 150 per house damaged fully and Rs. 75 per house damaged partially.
- 3) 10 Kgs of rice for a family.
- 4) Free clothing consisting of one pair of dhoties, a saree and a cotton blanket costing not more than Rs. 50 for all those whose houses were damaged.
- 5) For the rejuvenation of crops subsidy of 25% for small farmers and 33 1/2% for marginal farmers as loans sanctioned by cooperative banks scheduled banks and Agricultural Department.
- 6) Rs. 150 as assistance towards repairs of looms for each of the weavers affected besides yarn worth Rs. 100 on 50% loan and 50% subsidy basis
- 7) A sum of Rs. 10 lakhs will be kept at the disposal of backward class corporation towards subsidy to be granted to artisans over and above the margin money and other subsidies if any given by the corporation subject to a maximum of Rs. 200 in each case.
- 8) Necessary arrangements are being made to organise vigilance cell and to strengthen the audit parties to maintain watch over the distribution of relief and to render proper accounts.

# ANDHRA PRADESH CYCLONE LOSSES — MAY 1979

1	2	3	4
Losses of lives	Prakasam	Nellore	Total Losses including other Dists.
Loss of lives	300	30	360
Loss of cattle Value	2,00,000 40 Crores	1,00,000 20 Crores	Estimated total 500
Loss of sheep and Goats Value	4 Lakhs 8 Crores	3 Lakhs 6 Crores	61 Crores
Loss of Houses Value	3 Lakhs 60 Crores	2 Lakhs 40 Crores	.... 15 Crores 6 Lakhs 120 Crores
Other private Buildings and factories	100 Crores	50 Crores	150 Crores
Loss of standing Crops and Stored Produce			
Paddy Value	10,000 H A. 2 crores	1,25 000 H.A. 18 crores	20 Crores

Tobacco Value	1 Lak. H. A. 50 crores	30,000 H. A. 20 Crores	100 Crores
Cotton Value	30,000 H. A.		—
Bettlevine Value	650 Acs.	500 Acs.	15 Crores
Citruue and orchards value			3,000 Acs
Mango value			10 crores
National Highways, State Highway, and Road and Buildings			10 crores
Road value			50 Crores
Loss to Irrigation sources value			40 Crores
Loss to Panchayati Raj Properties like			15 Crores
Roads schools Buildings			
MI sources and other items value			50 Crores
Loss to APSE Board value			15 Crores
Municipal properties value			10 Crores
			—
			681 Crores
			—
			4 Crores
			6 Crores
Damages to Railways			
Passenger and goods earnings looses			

Total value Rs.

4 Crores  
6 Crores

### Permanent Relief :

- 1) Wind breaker belt with casuarina cashew or coconut Trees.
- 2) Communtty Cyclone Shelters on raised grounds.
- 3) Pucca cement buildings in Coastal Areas
- 4) Formation of Bund, in Coastal.

#### Support from American - Canadian Friends

French-born Canadian - American painter M. Rene Cera, Academeician of Paris and his well-known Canadian wife, art-teacher Elizabeth remembered in their letter to Rangaji on 2 October '79 as being the 110 birth-day of Mahatma Gandhi, the champion of the poor folk all over the world. They exclaimed "how many disasters your poor people suffer. This last one (May '79) certainly undelines the importance of your project to have insurance protection against such disasters. We both think it wonderful that you should work so deligently to promote a worldwide insurance against such Natural Disasters - a noble project and one which must come to pass. We often reflect on our great good fortune in being able to boast of your friendship. We cherish it".

E. Rene Cera,  
Cliffwood,  
Lenox, M.S.S.  
2-10-79

# **BOOKS BY PROF N. G. RANGA**

## **ENGLISH**

- 1. Economic Organisation of Indian Villages (1926)**
- 2. Tribes of Nilgiris (1930)**
- 3. Labour in South India (1930)**
- 4. Economic Condition of Zamindari Ryots (1932)**
- 5. Economics of the Hand Loom**
- 6. Kisan speaks (1938)**
- 7. The Modern Indian Peasant**
- 8. Kisan Hand Book (1940)**
- 9. History of Kisan Movement (1940)**
- 10. Peasants and Congress (1940)**
- 11. Revolutionary Peasants (1942)**
- 12. Colonial and Coloured Peoples Freedom Front (1946)**
- 13. Student Role in Colonial Revolution**
- 14. Economic Programme of Kisan Sammelan**
- 15. Peasants versus, Controls (1945)**
- 16. India in International Peasants Organisation**
- 17. The Gandhian way - Planning (1946)**
- 18. World Role of National Revolution (1946)**
- 19. Communists and Kisans (1946)**
- 20. Outlines of National Revolutionary Path (1946)**

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21. Kisan Mazdoor Praja Raj (1947)
22. Food Plan
23. Food Controls versus Peasants
24. Towards World Peace (1955)
25. Credo of World Peasantry (1957)
26. Self Employed Sector (1959)
27. Co-operative Farming (1959)
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