

G YALLAMANDA REDDI
President
Bharatiya Khet Mazdur Union
(All India Agr. Workers Union)

Camp: VIJAYAWADA

Nov 26 1977

The cruel devastation caused to Andhra Pradesh due to gigantic cyclone is unheard in the last one century in the country. The main attack of the tidal waves and gales were on Krishna and Guntur Districts in particular Divi Taluq. In Divi Taluq alone about ten thousand people have perished. Altogether in Krishna and Guntur Districts the loss of human lives will be between fifteen to twenty thousands. This is really heart breaking calamity not only to Andhra Pradesh but also to the whole nation. I have visited the affected areas from 24th to 26th of November. Basing on my experience I herewith bring the following facts for immediate action.

Lakhs of people have been rendered homeless because all the thatched houses and huts particularly in these two districts have been demolished. Lakhs of cattle heads died and all the standing crops which are ready for harvesting were destroyed.

In all the coastal districts, Nellore, Prakasam, West Godavary, East Godavary, Visakha and Srikakulam besides Krishna and Guntur, most of the crops have been either washed away completely or damaged. In all these districts without fear of contradiction one can say property worth about one thousand to fifteen hundred crores of rupees has been destroyed. This includes crops, houses, cattle and other belongings.

In such occasions it is the bounden duty of the Central Government to take initiative and rush to the scene without any invitation or request and help the people who have been in death pangs. Since the Central Govt. alone have got men and material under its control to meet such calamities, it should have then and there sent engineering, medical and other units under defence departments which are necessary to cope with the situation.

The State Government should have taken the cooperation of all the political parties and mass organisations besides the necessary help from the Central Government and rushed to the rescue of the people. But they only depended on their own administrative machinery, officials and revenue department to meet such a gigantic situation. Because of this they failed to meet the situation.

Therefore, even today some villages which are submerged in the water could not be contacted, even after a week. Thousands of human bodies and carcasses of the animals lying by the side of roads and in the villages under water. Even according to Government reports a fraction has been cleared.

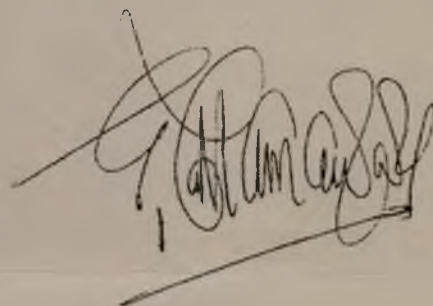
This will create dangerous situation like breakdown of epidemics and would lead into further disruption of civil life. Most of those who have lost their houses were not given even meagre amount of rupees 150 as decided by the State Government. In almost all the villages agricultural workers and other rural poor are not getting sufficient food grains, kerosene and other essential commodities. The whole life of the rural poor in these districts is in unheard distress.

Now the State and Central Governments with fullest cooperation of all the political parties, mass organisations and individuals and other philanthropic institutions should rush forward to give all sided, comprehensive, and urgent help to the distressed lakhs of the people.

I want to draw the attention of the Central and State Governments particularly to the unfathomable hardships of harijans, fishermen, toddy tappers, handloom weavers and all agricultural workers and the working peasantry. Therefore, I appeal to all that the following measures be implemented on warfooting to meet the situation.

- 1 Rice must be supplied to all the poor with subsidised rate of Rs 1.25 per kilo. They must be supplied with all essential commodities like cheap cloth, kerosene, dals, eddible oils etc., through fair price shops in all villages.
- 2 Those who lost houses must immediately be given Rs 500/- grant on the spot.
- 3 Medical help must be given through mobile hospitals in co-ordination with voluntary organisations.
- 4 The students who are in harijans and backward classes hostels must be supplied with books and clothes.
- 5 All loans of these poor people to the Govt. must forthwith be abolished.
- 6 Until all these poor people are rehabilitated and provided with work, they should be given unemployment doles.
- 7 All the loans of the peasantry to the Govt. be abolished.
- 8 The assistance of the agricultural department be mobilised immediately to help the peasantry to grow the short term crops and supply of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs.
- 9 Government should give liberal loans for agricultural purposes.
- 10 Full revenue remission be granted.
- 11 Centre should come forward to provide massive help for building big structures to give protection from such calamities.

I appeal to all political parties, mass organisations, individuals to come forward and help these suffering lakhs unitedly and wholeheartedly.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'S. Ramaswami', is written in a cursive style. The signature is enclosed within a simple rectangular border.

urgent

G.YALLAMANDA REDDY.

Dear Com Kadiyan,

Today I have returned from Vijayawada to Hyderabad. I had been there in Cyclone affected areas of Krishna and Guntur Districts for 5 days. I am herewith sending copies of my Statement.

2. Just two days back I have received the Circular regarding the Office Bearers Meeting on 4th December. I do not know whether we are going to have our Meeting on 4th in view of the postponement of the National Council. I think it is better to have our Office Bearers Meeting on 28th Dec. Please reply by Telegram.

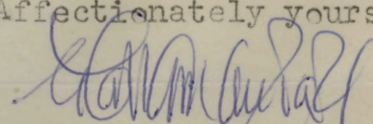
3. I have **not** received information so far from Tamilnad regarding my visit to the Cyclone affected areas. Soon after I receive the date I will go to Tamilnad.

Please immediately write letter.

With Greetings.

Makdhoom Bhavan
Hyderabad-29
Date: 27-11-1977.

Affectionately yours


(G.Yallamanda Reddy)

To
Com P.K.Kadiyan, M.P.,
Ajoy Bhavan
New Delhi-110 002.