AN APPEAL

Due to recurrence of flood, cyclone and drought almost in every year, Orissa's economy has been shattered. This year it is in the grip of an unprecedented severe drought. More than a crore of people spreading over the entire State now face conditions of starvation. Epidemics have already started in certain worst-affected pockets. Lots of people are now leaving their hearths and homes in search of food and are trekking to urban areas, gathering at the railway stations, footpaths in towns and have turned into destitutes. The food crisis is becoming more and more acute day by day. In spite of all efforts so far made by the State Government to alleviate the sufferings of the affected people, it is felt to be quite inadequate in view of the magnitude of the calamity. Unless funds are available in a big way from the generous public, it is apprehended that many people may die out of starvation. Old men and women and particularly the children are the worst victims.

The Congress Relief Committee has made an humble beginning in some areas to open certain centres for "Food for Work" programme to engage the semi-starved people in some productive work like irrigation tanks, cross bunds and small water channels. The Committee has also started supplying food to the poverty-stricken old, invalid and children. But the magnitude of the calamity is such that to cover the entire affected area, huge amounts are required for opening a network of relief centres to save the lives of the suffering people.

The State had never passed through such a calamity in the living memory. The situation is likely to continue till the Kharif harvest of 1975. Under such a grave situation, besides efforts made by Government to come to the rescue of the people, non-official efforts are essential.

This situation calls for tapping all possible sources to raise funds to provide immediate relief to the famished people.

We, therefore, appeal to the philanthropic citizens, organisations, commercial firms and others to contribute their mite to the Congress Relief Fund in order to save the lives of the teeming millions who are passing through terrible hardship and misery.

All contributions in cash or kind may kindly be sent to Shri Binayak Acharya, President, Congress Relief Committee, Bhubaneswar-1.

Binayak Acharya
President
Congress Relief Committee