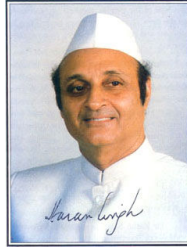




Dr KARAN SINGH
CHAIRMAN, AUROVILLE FOUNDATION



Dear Working Committee,

I am shocked to learn of the terrible devastation inflicted on Auroville by the typhoon last week, I have read newspaper reports but it is only when Aster called me on the telephone that I realised the immensity of the damage. I will do wherever I can to help in rebuilding and restoring Auroville.

I was wondering what the deeper significance of such an event could be. Almost a century ago Sri Aurobindo in 1907 speaking on the repression by the British of the nationalist revival in 1905 wrote, as follows:

"We were building an edifice to be the temple of our Mother's worship—were rearing her a new and fair mansion, a palace fit for her dwelling. It was then that He came down upon us. He flung Himself upon the building we had raised. He shook the roof with His mighty hands and part of the building was displaced and ruined. Why has He done this? Repression is nothing but the hammer of God that is beating us into shape so that we may be moulded into a mighty nation and an instrument for His work in the world. We are iron upon His anvil and the blows are showering upon us not to destroy but to re-create. Without suffering there can be no strength,—without sacrifice there can be no growth."
CWSA Vol.8, Karmayogin, Jhalakati Speech, page 37- 38

Perhaps the signal is that Auroville needs a total renewal and a deeper inner spiritual dedication.

The New Year has started on a very tragic note for Auroville but I hope and pray that things will continue to improve. It is significant that the magnificent Matrimandir was unscathed by this terrible storm.

KARAN SINGH
CHAIRMAN
AUROVILLE FOUNDATION