

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Request to set up an authority to take immediate steps to stop the flood situation in Kuttanand, Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, Kuttanad Taluk in Alleppey District, Kerala falls under my Constituency. Kuttanad is an area that is below sea level. Nearly, 90 per cent people of Kuttanad are engaged in paddy cultivation, and 60 per cent of paddy requirement of Kerala is coming from Kuttanad.

The problem that Kuttanad is facing is regular flood and natural calamities. In 2018, Kuttanad was severely affected by floods as thousands of houses got damaged, many people died as well as school buildings, hospitals, roads, etc. got destroyed. The outer bund of the paddy fields was also destroyed, and loss worth crores of rupees was incurred by the people of Kuttanad. But they are not getting proper compensation from either the State Government or the Central Government.

Now, the problem is that in 2019 also similar floods affected Kuttanad. In 2021, that is the previous year, the people of Kuttanad faced severe flood situations about eight to ten times. If rains occur even for a day or two in Kerala, Kuttanad gets submerged. What is the reason for it?

There is Pamba river, Achankovil river and Manimala river, which are flowing through Kuttanad. These rivers are having a leading channel through Thottappally Spillway to the Arabian Sea. However, renovation, dredging and deepening work of river is not done properly.

The State Government has not taken any steps and the Central Government, that is, the Jal Shakti Ministry has also not given any instruction to the Government of Kerala to get these works done for the relief of the people of Kuttanad.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, place your request what you want.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, I am coming to the request.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I think that necessary action has to be taken by the State Government.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : No, Sir. The problem is that in Kuttanad area, Kainakary Panchayat and some other panchayats are still submerged in water. People are living in water and their houses are also submerged in water. So, I would like to request the Government of India, through you, Sir, that the Jal Shakti Ministry should take immediate steps to stop such flood situations in Kuttanad. I would like to make a suggestion. There is a very famous lake, namely, the Vembanad Lake. No renovation or dredging work is taking place on this Lake also. Hence, the flow of water in it is not at all proper.

And also, the Thanneermukkom Bund is not working properly. Therefore, the water flow is totally disturbed.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : It is okay. I get your point.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : This is a very serious matter because in my constituency, people of Kuttanad are facing very serious problems.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : I would request the Government and the Jal Shakti Ministry to have a discussion with the State Government to sort out this problem facing the people of Kuttanad.

I would like to request that the State Government and the Central Government set up an authority for Kuttanad.