

Seventeenth Loksabha

>

Title: Request to make lightning a national disaster so that funds can be provided to the affected families.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Hon. Speaker, Sir, lightning is a major natural disaster in India. This was demonstrated by a recent Report compiled by the Climate Research and Services of Indian Meteorological Department that Odisha lost 213 human lives due to lightning strikes, the highest in the country in 2021. Thunderstorm and lightning claimed 780 lives across the country. Among these, the significant reported deaths were from Odisha.

Considering that most of these deaths are in the rural areas, with low levels of literacy and few buildings with lightning protection, there is a need to make people aware about precautions to be taken during lightning by keeping away from electrical equipment including wired phones and TVs, not opening any water taps, not going to open areas, etc.

The Odisha Government has initiated several steps to protect vulnerable pockets of the State from lightning fatalities. We need the Centre's help, which is required on this issue.

I would just like to mention, Sir, that in 2015, the Odisha Government also entered into an MoU with Earth Network and has installed lightning detection sensors in eight districts like Keonjhar, Balangir, Brahmapur, Jeypore, Rourkela, Bhubaneswar and Panikoli. But this needs to be expanded, and accordingly lightning is a State-specific disaster even today.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to make it a National Disaster so that funds can be provided to the affected families.

Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : बालू जी, आपके टोकने पर मैंने राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण पर धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव के बीच में आपको बोलने दिया था । आप विराजें । संसद में हम सब गरिमा बनाकर चलें । संसद में अच्छा संवाद हो, अच्छी चर्चा हो तो उचित रहता है ।

इसलिए शून्य काल में अपनी बात को एक मिनट में समाप्त कर दें, तो उचित रहेगा ।

श्री एम. वी. वी. सत्यनारायण ।