

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to provide funds to build disaster-resilient infrastructure in Coastal embankment areas of Odisha

**प्रो. अच्युतानंद सामंत (कंधमाल):** महोदय, आपने मुझे शून्य काल में बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए आपका धन्यवाद।

Sir, I would like to speak on the subject – ‘Funds for building long-term disaster-resilient infrastructure in Odisha’. We all know Odisha is the most disaster and cyclone prone State in the country. In the last 100 years, over 260 cyclonic disturbances had their landfall along the Odisha coast. The major cyclones that have hit the State in the last two decades are the 1999 super cyclone, Phailin, Hudhud, Titli, and also Fani. Besides, it is also prone to floods and droughts.

Odisha, under the leadership of hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik Ji, has been hailed for its disaster management strategies and plans worldwide, including from the UN and the World Bank. Odisha’s efforts at a well-targeted evacuation plan, which had involved moving more than one million people into storm shelters during Cyclone Fani have been applauded worldwide. Odisha has performed well in various parameters including risk minimisation, response, rehabilitation, and recovery but long-term infrastructure which is disaster-resilient is still a grey area considering the recurring nature of cyclones.

We request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and hon. Minister of Finance to provide Odisha with a special fund for building long-term disaster-resilient infrastructure to minimize the need of the evacuation and also save on the systematic investments that are made when household assets are lost during a disaster. Our hon. Chief Minister of Odisha has also sought a long-term package of around Rs. 20,000 crore from the Centre to build disaster-resilient infrastructure in coastal embankment area.

