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Title: Need to release the funds to protect the lives and livelihood of people affected by cyclone 'Bulbul' in West Bengal.

SHRIMATI MALA ROY (KOLKATA DAKSHIN): Sir, Cyclone Bulbul has recently caused severe destruction in West Bengal. The Cyclone has affected the lives of lakhs of people in East Medinipur and North and South 24 Parganas. Over 14 lakh hectares of agricultural land has been destroyed. More than five lakh houses and six thousand electric poles have been damaged. Many people have been injured and some have also lost their lives. The total loss incurred by the State Government so far is nearly Rs. 24,000 crore which is expected to rise to nearly Rs. 50,000 crore. A detailed estimate was given to the team sent by the Central Government which had visited the affected districts to assess the extent of the impact. However, no assistance has been given from the Centre yet despite the assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister. The funds of the State Government are being used to provide relief and rehabilitation. Six lakh kids have been trained with the help of civic volunteers and self-help groups to help distressed families. We request the Central Government to release the funds at the earliest to protect the lives and livelihood of our people.