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Title: Need to provide funds to strengthen coastal walls in Kerala.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious damage being caused by coastal erosion in Kerala, particularly, in Thiruvananthapuram.

With the onset of monsoon, Thiruvananthapuram again finds itself in the throes of a recurring crisis of severe coastal erosion. The destructive effects of climate change are resulting in severe damage to the coastline, particularly, in the fishing hamlets of Valiyathura, Poothura, Panathura and Beemapally destroying the homes of our fishermen; encroaching on our beaches; and even washing away our land.

If a foreign power were to take even an inch of our territory, then this House would be united and outraged, but the sea is taking away kilometres of our territory and our land is going into the sea, and the Government, Central and State -- despite all my repeated efforts to draw the attention of this House to the urgency of the crisis last year also -- are doing nothing in order to manage this calamity and save the country.

I urge the Central Government to dedicate funds as a matter of national priority towards strengthening our defences against the sea by constructing a sea wall; installing rock groynes; and to protect the coast in these areas so that this crisis is abated.

But, Sir, I must ask you this. Who is responsible for it? Who will give us a reply for it? If you look at the Ministers, the Jal Shakti

Minister says that he is dealing with water, but not necessarily with sea water; you have got the coastal responsibility with the Fisheries Minister; and disaster is with the Home Minister. Will somebody reply to us? Thank you, Sir.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM) : Sir, I would like to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Shashi Tharoor. But I would like to mention here in the House that I am going on a hunger strike for 24 hours tomorrow on the issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma and Shri N.K. Premachandran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Shashi Tharoor.

...(व्यवधान)