

Regarding floods in Tamil Nadu

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, I would like to raise a very important, crucial issue. In the entire State of Tamil Nadu, more than 1.2 crore people are suffering. They are reeling under severe flood and severe cyclone that has just receded yesterday only. After 47 years, this particular type of flood has occurred now. Heavy damages have been made to the properties and more than 17 people have died.

But in this context, is it not proper for the Government of India to declare this situation as a natural calamity? I think, by this time, the Home Minister should have done it. But so far, things are not moving in a proper way. More than four-feet water is still there and it is stagnated everywhere. Even food and relief materials are just being moved through boats only into the city of Chennai and other four districts. So, it is better and it is highly important that that particular area of Tamil Nadu should be declared as a natural calamity area. This is more important. This is what I wanted to insist upon in the House. I think the Government of India should come forward very quickly for taking relief measures and it should also send a team quickly so that they can assess the situation, what went wrong, how much damage has been done. This assessment should reach Delhi so that quick relief measures could be undertaken. Thank you, Sir.