

**Title:** Urged the Central Government to provide financial assistance for the relief work in Pondicherry and in adjoining areas for the damage caused by the heavy storm.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (PONDICHERRY): Sir, a heavy storm has hit Pondicherry and Cuddalore last evening at a speed of 175 kilometres. It has brought forth havoc in that territory. Many deaths have occurred in Pondicherry due this storm. About 40,000 people have been admitted in hospitals so far. Many trees have been uprooted. Coastal villages all over Pondicherry have been affected by intrusion of seawater following the heavy storm. Around 40,000 houses have been blown away. Electricity and water supply is completely affected. Telecommunication facilities are disrupted to a certain extent. Extent of damage to crops has not been assessed so far. Field Officers of the State Government are going round the affected areas and doing the relief work. All educational institutions have been closed due to the disaster. Normal life in Pondicherry, Cuddalore and other places is completely disrupted. Roads connecting these areas have been completely cut off. Rough estimates of the damage caused is about Rs.300 crore.

Sir, through you, I urge the Government of India to sanction immediately an amount of about Rs.30 crore as central assistance for undertaking immediate relief work in Pondicherry and in the adjoining territory. I urge the Central Government to send a team to assess the situation and do the needful.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, it is a serious matter. We associate with the Member on this....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Samar Choudhury.

...(*Interruptions*)