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Title : Need to give central assistance for rehabilitation of families affected by floods in Assam.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR) Thank you for allowing me to raise this important issue about Assam. Assam is perennially flood affected State but this time the devastating flood, due to sudden release of water from NEEPCO Hydro Power Project, Dikrong and Ranganadi rivers has created a very serious situation in the Lakhimpur district of Assam. Similarly the breach in the Matmora side of Brahmaputra dyke has inundated large area of Dhakuakhana sub-division and as well as Majuli Island of Assam which has made thousands and thousands of families homeless and landless. They are on the streets and embankments and they have taken shelter in the temporary sheds.

Another important point is the Rohmaria erosion point of Dibrugarh district where the Prime Minister has visited. So far no action has been taken by the Government despite the commitment from the hon. Prime Minister. Hon. Prime

* Not recorded

Minister has made a commitment that the flood of Assam would be taken as a national problem but very unfortunately this time the Prime Minister could not find any time to visit the flood affected areas of Assam and land erosion affected areas. Also, regarding the other parts of Assam like Puthimari river and in other districts like Nalbari, Dhuburi, Goalpara, Borpeta, etc. and many areas are fully inundated and large number of families have become homeless. In Assam, even today, more than 50,000 families are fully affected by floods and erosion. So far the Government of India has not taken any action to rehabilitate them when the Government had taken up Rs.10,000 crore National Rehabilitation Plan for Tsunami affected people â€¦
...(Interruptions) Erosion and flood affected people of Assam are not taken care of by the Government. We strongly oppose the indifferent and partial attitude of the Prime Minister who has discriminated the people of Assam. He has visited Bihar and declared the floods of only Bihar as calamity of severe nature. We support such a declaration for Bihar but at the same time, I would like to know as to why the flood in Assam is not considered as a national problem and as to why floods in Assam are not considered as a national calamity of severe nature. ...
...(Interruptions)

It is an independent country. ...
...(Interruptions) Assam has been suffering. ...
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Wait for your turn, your leader is not stopping, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. What can I do?

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Assam has been suffering from flood and erosion since Independence. This issue has not been taken up. This should have been considered as a national problem by now.

MR. SPEAKER: All right but you cannot make it a debate, Dr. Sarma. I have called you because of the importance of the matter.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): I am just concluding. I am making an appeal to the Government of Indiaâ€¦
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can I call everybody together?

...
...(Interruptions)

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): I would request the Government to release rehabilitation grant from the National Calamity Contingency Fund and also from the Central Relief Fund for the rehabilitation of the people who have been affected.
...
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Sarma, please cooperate. I earnestly appeal to you. This is an important matter and that is why I have allowed you to raise it. Please cooperate so that other important matters of other leaders can be taken up.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): My last point, Sir. I want to make a submission that the breach in the Matmora has affected the Dhakuathana and Majuli Islands. This has become a permanent problem. The river has crossed to the mainland and the Government of India has the responsibility to take care of this issue *â€¦; â€¦; (~~Not recorded~~)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not mention that. This is not right. Omit that portion.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, you join him.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (DIBRUGARH): Sir, as you know, Dr. Manmohan Singh, hon. Prime Minister of India promised to the people of Assam on 5th of May, 2005 in a tripartite talk with the All Assamese Students Union that flood and erosion problem will be declared and accepted as a national problem. [r24]

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But after this declaration, nothing has been taken up practically. Dr. Manmohan Singh himself went to the affected areas of Lahoal and Dibrugarh and promised to the affected people that this particular issue will be taken up nationally. But nothing has been done. Even Prof. Saifuddin Soz, Union Minister of Water Resources also visited, but nothing is done. This is the way, they have been betraying the people of Assam.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. We are here only to raise the issue; we cannot make speeches.

* Not recorded

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (DIBRUGARH): Sir, in my constituency, Dibrugarh, there are three rivers, Brahmaputra, Buridihing and Sessa, creating lot of havoc in places like Mergherita, Tingkhong, Duliajan, Moran, Lahoal, Naharkatia, etc. They have created a lot of havoc in those places. So, this issue should be taken up nationally so that the people can be relieved of this problem. Thank you.