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Title: Need to provide special assistance for additional two lakh houses under Indira Awas Yojna for the flood-hit BPL families in Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The State of Orissa was ravaged by floods in June and September during this year 2008. The floods that occurred in June, 2008 and in September 2008 are unprecedented for the fact that all river systems of the State caused floods. Massive damage has been caused to infrastructure, standing crops and human lives. The floods in June, 2008 brought havoc in Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar districts and subsequently, the State experienced a devastating flood in the Mahanadi river system in September 2008.

Realising the severity of the floods, Union Home Minister had announced an assistance of Rs 500 crore out of NCCF. Subsequently, Government of India has released Rs 98.86 crores and Rs 186 crores as first and second installments out of NCCF. As large number of poor people have been affected by floods and their dwelling washed away, Government of Orissa has requested the Centre for special assistance for additional 2 lakh houses under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) for the flood-hit BPL families. Without Central assistance it would be well-nigh impossible to provide housing assistance under any other scheme.

As Government of India has sanctioned funds for construction of one Lakh 11 thousand IAY houses in 2008-09 and since this assistance is district specific, funds of one district cannot be diverted to another. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to provide special assistance for additional 2 lakh houses under Indira Awas Yojana for the flood-hit BPL families.