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Title : Flood situation in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much.

I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as of the Government to a tragic situation that is being witnessed in the State of Andhra Pradesh because of floods. It has inundated more than thirty lakh people in sixteen districts. It has affected more than 450 mandals and more than 6,500 villages. It started on August 2 and is continuing till now.

All the major rivers of the State of Andhra Pradesh, like Nagavali, Vamshadhara, Godavari, Krishna and Tungabhadra, are overflowing. In fact, more than two and half a lakh families have been severely affected because of these floods. More than seven lakh people have been shifted to rehabilitation centres and more than 100 people have died because of these severe floods. More than 6,500 cattle have died in the process. More than 17,000 houses have been damaged in this entire exercise. More than three lakh hectares of crops, both paddy and commercial crops, have been damaged. These floods have caused havoc in 16 districts out of 23 districts in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

In fact, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, have visited the State. Our Chief Minister had taken all possible measures immediately to attend the situation. The only thing that we expect from the Centre is the financial assistance because these floods have caused a great damage, ranging from Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,000 crore. I am happy and I thank the Central Government, especially the hon. Prime Minister and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, for immediately granting Rs. 200 crore to the State. We have to declare this natural calamity as a "National Calamity" immediately<sup>[r21]</sup>.

We have to ensure that henceforth such calamities do not occur. Even during the floods, enough storage capacity should be created so that water could be stored in the reservoirs. In fact, the Andhra Pradesh Government is investing Rs. 50,000 crore to store this water. We need to invest more and more. The Centre should come to the rescue not only to tackle the flood victims and flood relief but also to ensure that more amount is spent on Andhra Pradesh to store this water and use it for the betterment of the farmers and villages.

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