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Title: Issue regarding non-payment under the National Family Benefit Scheme in Kerala since 1998.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): The financial assistance provided to the widows through the 'National Family Benefit Scheme' is helpful to an extent to these women, particularly those belonging to the financially backward sections. Though the amount of Rs. 10,000/- could not do much to mitigate their financial constraints, it definitely is a gesture of the society of its sympathy and concern for these hapless women.

But, unfortunately, the disbursement of this amount has not been done since 1998 in the State of Kerala. The State stands to get about Rs. 46 crore from the Centre on this account. Thousands of applications are pending with the authorities.

So, I urge upon the Government to release the amount due to Kerala since 1998 so that the money is disbursed to the poor widows at the earliest.