

Fourteenth Lok Sabha

Session : 11

Date : 03-05-2007

Participants : [Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari](#)

Title: Proposal to declare deaths due to Sun-stroke and lightning as Natural Calamities and provide relief from National Calamity Relief Fund (N.C.F.).

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, because of large-scale felling of trees, environmental pollution and global warming, large parts of the country are facing heat wave in abnormal figures.

17.57 hrs. (Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan *in the Chair*)

In many districts of Orissa, especially Jharsuguda, Angul, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Bolangir, the temperature has gone beyond 43 degree Celsius during the last seven days, which had taken a toll of at least 36 persons. The Orissa Government has provided only Rs. 10,000 each as *ex-gratia* from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. As death due to sun-stroke and thunder/lightning is yet to be treated as natural calamity, the affected families are not getting any relief from the National Calamity Relief Fund.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government that around 230 to 250 persons die because of lightning in Orissa invariably every year as reported in the Government records but are denied any relief from the National Calamity Relief Fund.

It was in 1998, Orissa faced tremendous heat wave and around 2,042 casualties occurred because of sun-stroke. This year also, Orissa is witnessing similar heat wave and because of abnormal rise in temperature, the laymen, working class are falling victims and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund is of a little solace to the bereaved families.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to declare lightning and sun-stroke as natural calamity at the earliest so that adequate *ex-gratia* can be provided to the bereaved families.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call one by one. Now, Shri K. Francis George.