

>

Title: Need to expedite the allocation of food grains to the flood affected districts of Orissa.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a very serious matter regarding the miseries of the flood-affected people of Orissa.

The Government of India has allocated 1.87 lakh metric tonnes of food grains to Orissa for undertaking relief employment work in the flood-affected districts, which suffered in flood in 2006. This allotment was made in lieu of cash assistance for relief employment. The district-wise requirement of food grains has been intimated to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India since November, 2007. However, no food grain has so far been issued in favour of the State Government. But, you know, Sir, the monsoon is coming very shortly. How is this Government behaving with the miseries of the flood-affected people? Even in the relief assistance, they are playing politics. They are not even providing the foodgrains that is required and that has been allocated.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring politics into everything.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, 1.87 lakh metric tonnes of food grains were allocated since long. It has not been issued. If food grain is not available, they can give cash. Nobody is going to say no. But they have allotted 1.87 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains. Everything is ready. Even the Government of Orissa is ready for matching cash component. The Chief Minister is meeting the Ministers time and again. They are ready to give the matching grant for their share of cash component. So, it is now necessary that either they send the food grains to continue the relief employment work. Otherwise, they can give cash. So, my earnest request, through you, to the Government is that it should come forward immediately to issue the food grains so that relief measures can be continued in the State, which is seriously affected.

Sir, monsoon is coming. Orissa is a State like the Eastern States where the monsoon is coming very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: It is no good to repeat it. Thank you.

Now, Shrimati Suman Mahato. She has an important matter. Please allow her.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : So, I would request, through you, that the Government should assure about this. Sir, the Finance Minister is here.