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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the farmers whose crops have been damaged due to heavy rain in Kuttanad and other parts of Kerala.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, central financial assistance is sought for the devastating crop damage caused by the unprecedented rainfall in Kerala. There was a heavy rainfall during the 1st week of March, 2008. On March 16, on a single day, there was a rainfall of 118 mm of water. The entire paddy field got submerged in water and water-logging had caused the loss of the entire crop. The crop got germinated and became unconsumable.

In Kuttanad alone, paddy crops in around 30,000 hectares were damaged. The tragedy of the situation is that the paddy crops were ready to be harvested. In Kuttanad alone, damage to the crops is estimated to be around Rs. 63 crore, and the estimated damage of paddy crops in the entire State of Kerala is Rs. 161 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to be brief and pointed. It cannot be a long statement.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : The total damage is estimated to be around Rs. 1,450 crore. The Central team has visited the State for on-the-spot estimation of the damages, but till now, no relief has been given to the State. Besides the damage caused to the farmers, the agricultural labourers lost their daily wages.

Sir, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has submitted a report to the Central Government on ecological sustainability of Kuttanad. If the recommendations have been accepted by the Government and implemented, this devastating damage would not have happened. I would urge upon the Government to release immediately the Central assistance to the State of Kerala and also implement the recommendations contained in Dr. Swaminathan Commission's Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Kurup can associate himself. He has sent a notice. I will not allow these impromptu interventions. I have been telling you repeatedly that I would not allow this. You have to give proper notice in time.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (TRICHUR): Can we associate, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: By sending the slips, you can associate without creating any problem for the House.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has stated.

MR. SPEAKER: Please send your slips.

ADV. SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Sir, an all-party delegation under the leadership of the Kerala Chief Minister came here and submitted a memorandum before the Prime Minister. The Central aid is yet to be released. What the Central Government should do is to immediately release the Central aid because crops worth crores of rupees have been damaged. You should read it in connection with the reduction of the Central allotment of rice to Kerala. Kerala is faced with an unprecedented situation because of this. The Central aid should be released immediately. We want a response from the Government.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, not only paddy, even pepper, coffee and other crops have been destroyed.