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Title: Need to provide relief to the grief stricken families of Dharwad, Karnataka who were victims of Sabrimala Shrine stampede in Kerala.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Thank you, Madam. Recently, on 14<sup>th</sup> of January, a major accident took place near Sabrimalai, Kerala. Many of the pilgrims from Karnataka also died and sacrificed their lives in that stampede. Out of the many who died, seven were from my constituency. The Central Government and the Kerala Government announced a sum of Rs.5 lakh and Rs. 1 lakh respectively as compensation.

Madam, compensating by money the life cannot be brought back because many of the pilgrims, who died, especially from my constituency and of which I have the personal knowledge, were the only earning members of their families. Their families have been striving for one square meal today because they have lost their earning member of the family.

That is why, I would urge upon the Central Government to interact with the State Government of Kerala to dispense the compensation immediate that they have announced after the accident. As I have already told they were the only earning members of their family and their families are really suffering. I am thankful to the State Government of Kerala that they handed over the bodies, after getting all the documents that were needed, and sent them to their respective villages. But unfortunately, after one-and-a-half month not a single paisa was given to the families of the deceased. Madam, they were all coolies and were very ordinary people. They were daily wage earners. Unfortunately, they had been there and lost their lives there. Their families are suffering very severely.

So, I would urge the Central Government to take a note of it and interact with the Kerala Government to fulfill the commitment on their part immediately that they made after the accident. It is my very sincere request to the Central Government.

SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA (KOPPAL): Madam, I associate with what Shri Joshi has submitted.

SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): Madam, I would also like to associate with this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : All right.