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Title: Need to provide financial assistance allotted under various schemes for proper maintenance of health and sanitation programmes in Kerala.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a very serious issue of urgent importance.

In Kerala monsoon is about to start in the first week of June. For the past few years the State of Kerala has succumbed to a series of diseases during the period of monsoon. The basic reason seems to be insufficient sanitation facilities. Garbage problem is increasing in cities as well as in rural areas. Besides multiple increases of mosquitoes and rats, which spread diseases like Dengue fever, Chikungunya, H1N1, Malaria and other communicable diseases, it is seen that the systems installed for the treatment of waste are not functioning properly in most of the areas.

Action for controlling mosquitoes and rats and sanitation activities after the outburst of diseases is a waste exercise. The Government of India has wide amenities for ensuring public health and sanitation through its schemes and machineries like National Rural Health Mission which aims at effective integration of health concerns with determinants of health like sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water, through a District Plan for Health.

Hence, I would request that necessary scheme with sound financial assistance may be provided by the Government to the State of Kerala for proper maintenance of public health. I would also request the Government to have a Total Sanitation Programme for supporting the local self-Government authorities in their effort of treatment of waste thereby avoiding occasional outburst of diseases. It is essential to ensure proper availability of essential medicines at reasonable prices by keeping an eye on the actions of the drug companies and stockists as this only can enable the people of the lowest strata better treatment facilities.