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Title: Need to send a Central team to assess the loss of lives and property due to heavy rains and floods in Kerala and provide assistance to the Government of Kerala to tide over the problem.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Kerala is facing the worst disaster due to heavy rain and flood this year since the onset of Monsoon. Many people lost their lives due to landslides, drowning and flash floods. Hundreds of houses have been damaged due to heavy rain and storm and thousands of people shifted to relief camps. Landslides triggered by heavy rain and flash floods claimed 14 lives in the high range Idukki district of Kerala and many people are missing. Casualties were reported from many other places also. The state has sought the help of Armed forces for rescue operations in Idukki. The water level in Periyar river is rising as shutters of Idukki and Mullaperiyar reservoirs and many small dams have been opened. Inhabitants on the riverside area have been shifted to relief camps opened in schools and other temporary shelters. Roads in the high districts with the rest of the state have been damaged due to heavy landslides. The damages to crops and roads amount to crores of rupees. Sea erosion during the Monsoon also caused casualties in Kerala, as it has a 550 km coastline, hence it is also requested to include sea erosion in the list of natural calamities. A total of 13 people have died in rain-related incidents in the state since the onset of the monsoon season till 31st July this year. The state is not able to compensate the damages caused by the heavy rain without central assistance. The state government has already sought central assistance for a total loss of Rs. 887.85 crores for the widespread damage in 1028 villages. Hence I request that the Govt. of India may take immediate steps to send central team including Ministers to assess the casualties in Kerala and for releasing central assistance to overcome the damages caused to Kerala due to heavy rain and flood. I also request that a unit of National Disaster Management Authority may be established in Kerala immediately.