

an>

Title: Need to declare calamity caused by `Hudhud' cyclone as a national calamity and release adequate financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House regarding the Hudhud cyclone and its impact in Andhra Pradesh. Visakhapatnam, which is also called the Steel City was devastated by cyclone Hudhud which hit on October 12. Hudhud cyclone has also devastated Srikalulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts. East Godavari district was partly affected in the cyclone. Devastation was unprecedented and the fury of cyclones not only killed 46 persons and injured 43 others, but also affected 20.93 lakh families and took lives of 2831 animals and 24.43 lakh poultry/ducks in four districts. More than 4484 villages of above said four districts were affected by the cyclone that damaged 31269 houses. Around 2.37 lakh hectare of farm land having 22.14 lakh tonnes of food grains and standing cash crops and 6.89 tonnes of horticultural crops suffered damage. Road, Railway transport, telecommunication and power were severely affected. Coffee and pepper plantations and teak trees in the Agency area have been totally damaged. Panchayati Raj roads were also fully damaged and the loss was estimated at around Rs. 47 crore. The fishermen population is about two lakh families in the northern coast of the State. They are dependent on fishing only. Due to this cyclone they have lost not only their houses but also their livelihood. Nearly 470 fishing boats were damaged. A large number of fishing material mainly fishing nets was destroyed. But the Government declared only Rs. 10,000 per boat as compensation. The cyclone hit the tribal areas including Araku and Paderu very hard. Due to landslides in Araku Mandal, five tribals died. The coffee plantation and silver oak trees have fallen in large numbers. Paddy has been destroyed. Even commercial crops like coconut, cashew, sugarcane, banana, beetle leaf, mango were destroyed. But the Government declared meager compensation. The estimated loss would be around Rs. 70,000 crore but the PM has announced Rs. 1,000 crore only as initial compensation which is very meagre. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has already prepared a note in this regard and sent to the Centre. Hence, in view of the above situation, I request the hon. Minister for Home Affairs, through the Chair, to take necessary steps to announce Hudhud cyclone as national calamity and release adequate financial succor at the earliest.