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Title: Need to declare lightning and coastal erosion as natural calamities.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Unfortunately sea erosion and lightning has not been included in the list of Natural calamity eligible for compensation from National Disaster Resource Fund and hence even compensation is also denied for the damage of life and property. Needless to say that lightning and coastal erosion are the part of the natural evolutionary system of the earth. The international scientific community has had recognized lightning and coastal erosion as "naturally triggered hazards"

The research conducted by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information service, Centre for Earth Science studies, National Remote Sensing Centre etc. also points out the hazardous nature of sea erosion and lightning. As far as Kerala is concerned lightning incidence is very high. An authentic study reveals that Kerala is significantly prone to lightning. A simple explanatory statistics derived from the data base of 17 years shows that there has been, on an average, 71 deaths and 112 injuries due to the lightning every year. In the year 2012 between October and December, there were as many as 35 fatalities due to lightning.

It is to be noted that most of the dead and injured due to lightning were bread earning member of poor families and mainly women. In respect of coastal erosion, the entire coastal belt is always apprehensive . The 590 km coast of Kerala is one of the most densely populated area in the Country. The very recent "fact sheet of shoreline change " Kerala, national assessment of shore change" published by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India shows that a major stretch of Kerala coastal line (63%) is eroding rapidly. We are having 9 coastal districts in Kerala. The Department of irrigation has identified a number of coastal erosion prone. zones, Needless to say that Sea erosion plays havoc in the coastal belt. There are heavy losses to the dwelling space of the fishing community. Every year hundreds of houses are damaged or washed away due to the fury of Sea.

In view of the mentioned facts, I urge upon to Government of India to declare "lightning and coastal erosion as natural calamities, eligible for compensation from the National Disaster Resource Fund.