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Title: Need to bring an appropriate legal measure to check loopholes in the existing laws and to take deterrent legal action against the unscrupulous and malevolent anti social elements which spread misleading false information in the social media.

SHRI V. PANNEERSELVAM (SALEM): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue pertaining to the role played by the social media and internet for the welfare of the flood ravaged people of Tamil Nadu. People helped one another by posting many useful pieces of information about floods and flood affected people in social media. Our hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has initiated many rehabilitation schemes to bring back normalcy and to provide permanent solution to lead a good life. She has also appealed to the people of Tamil Nadu that she will be there with the people all the time. She said Tamil Nadu is her home and Tamil people are her life.

But on the other side, some unscrupulous people with the hidden support of antisocial elements went on posting false news and evil-minded rumours to create unrest and panic among the people who are already battered by the floods. This is a very insensitive and criminal activity which not only affected the relief and restoration activities of the Government but also pressed panic button in the minds of people owing to which the sufferings of the people multiplied.

For instance, the rumour mongers posted wrong information on weather predictions, misleading information, and imaginary astrological predictions on flood damages causing severe panic and agony among the people.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to bring an appropriate legal measure to check loopholes in the existing laws and to take deterrent legal action against the unscrupulous and malevolent antisocial elements which spread misleading false information in the social media through internet.

Thank you.