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Title: Need to declare flash flood as a natural calamity and to provide financial assistance to Manipur.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): Thank you, Madam. I rise to raise a matter of urgent public interest.

The nature continues to unleash its fury in the North Eastern parts of India. In January this year, a severe earthquake of 6.8 magnitude, on the Richter scale, rocked the Region with its epicenter being at Noney in Western Manipur. Last month, another severe earthquake of almost same magnitude rocked the Region once again with its epicenter being Myanmar.

Now, heavy rains accompanied by violent hailstorms, fast winds and lightening have swept across the region last week causing heavy damages, landslides, etc. Manipur had been always under severe flash floods quite a few times in a year. This time too, thousands of houses, standing crops and vegetables were damaged by heavy rain accompanied by hailstorms that swept across the State. In almost all districts of Manipur, the violent hailstorm wreaked havoc and houses have been marooned by water. The Corrugated Iron (CI) sheet roofs of houses were also extensively damaged by giant hailstones. Most of the affected people do not have shelter for sleeping and cooking now.

Madam, in this august House, only the other day an hon. Member mentioned about the severe drought condition prevailing in the Southern and Central parts of the country. It is indeed always a coincidence that there is a severe drought in some parts of the country and at the same time there is an equally severe flood situation in some other parts of the country. God forbid! No more, such fury of nature, happens again.

Madam, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to immediately intervene and help hugely the State Governments of the North Eastern Regions and the Government of Manipur, in particular, in their tasks of disaster response and rehabilitation by declaring the same as a natural calamity. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER : Shri Thangso Baite, Shri Ninong Ering, and Shri C.L. Ruala are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Thokchom Meinya.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Pashupati Nath Singh -- not present.

Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar.