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Title: Need to declare the Puttingal Temple tragedy in Kollam, Kerala as a national calamity and extend financial assistance to Kerala.

**SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA):** The Kollam, Puttingal temple fireworks tragedy is one of the worst tragedies Kerala has witnessed after the devastating tsunami of 2004. More than 100 people have lost their lives and more than 1000 admitted in various hospitals with grievous injuries. Even after recovery, many of them will remain deformed and handicapped. Many have lost their hearing capacity. In a radius of one and a half kilometer, several houses have been destroyed or damaged. The rescue operations by Kerala Government and local people were exemplary. But the after effects are so far reaching that much remains to be done. The financial loss is estimated at Rs. 120 crores. Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government to treat the tragedy as national calamity and to provide monetary allocation. I urge upon the Government to consider this genuine request favorably and declare this tragedy as national calamity and extend financial assistance to this State.