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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to endosulfan victims in Kerala.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government with regard to the request of the State of Kerala for a special financial assistance to the victims of endosulfan in the State of Kerala, especially in the district of Kasargod.

Madam, with your permission, I have been raising this issue on various occasions. Due to the continuous use of endosulfan for 25 years in the cashew plantation, there were adverse effects on human lives and environment. About 600 people have died in various times and 10,000 people are taking treatment for it. The Government of Kerala has done a lot of work in this regard but it is not possible for the State Government alone to tackle this serious issue.

It is very serious that even after 25 years, young children, two to three years old children, are suffering from cancer, TB and other diseases. Such is the magnitude and seriousness of this deadly pesticide that has been used there.

Of course, the Government of Kerala has taken a lot of efforts. I have raised this issue many times. It is not only that the Central Government has written a letter for a financial assistance of Rs. 475 crore to the State but these victims have also to be taken into the main stream and it is possible only by all means. Many NGOs and other agencies are taking their share of action. I do agree with it but at the same time, the Central Government has to take this issue seriously and sanction this financial assistance in the interest of the State Government of Kerala.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री के.सी. वेणुगोपाल, श्री पी.के.बिजू, श्री राजीव सातव को श्री पी.करुणाकरन द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।