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Title: Regarding large scale floods and land slips resulting in loss of lives and property in Kerala.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I would like to place before the House the serious situation that Kerala is witnessing. There are about six districts which are very badly affected.

In Idukki district alone, 20 persons have lost their lives. In Wayanad district, five persons have lost their lives. Palakkad, Calicut, Malappuram and other districts also are facing the same difficulties. It is difficult to move persons from one place to another. The Chief Minister of Kerala has sent urgent messages to the Government.

This is the third consecutive natural calamity that we are facing. One was the Ockhi. The other was the natural calamity in Kuttanad and Alleppy. The third one is this. So, we would request that the Government has to take it as a special issue and give all possible assistance. What we need is the Defence assistance, the Military assistance. It is not possible to handle it by the State alone. So, the Government has to take very immediate and urgent steps regarding this.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shrimati Supriya Sule is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, this is the fourth time that I am raising the same issue regarding the severe situation, due to flood, prevailing in the State of Kerala. Actually, unprecedented rain, continuous rain has played a havoc with the entire State. During the last two days, it has further worsened. Around 23 people were killed yesterday alone. At least 23 people have died in the State until now due to heavy rains and landslides. Wayanad district was cut off from the rest of the State by a series of landslips along key ghat roads. Landslips and floods devastated the eastern hilly part of Malappuram district claiming six lives of an Adivasi family at Chettiyanpara near Malappuram. There were multiple incidents of landslips in the rural areas of Kozhikode. Most rivers in the State were in spate and the water level in reservoirs was nearing the danger mark due to the heavy inflow caused by incessant rains in the catchment areas. For the first time, shutters of 22 dams, including Idukki dam, were opened on Thursday due to heavy rains. Three shutters of the Cheruthoni dam in Idukki has been opened to ease the pressure of water on the Idukki hydel reservoir. This has been done after a gap of 26 years. The Idukki and Ernakulam district administrations have warned those living on the banks of Periyar. This has increased the water level in all rivers causing flood and waterlogging in the areas adjacent to river banks. Around 13 villages of Aluva taluk are expected to be affected by the release of water from Idukki dam. Yesterday, the Cochin International Airport was also closed.

The hon. Home Minister is here. The Central Team is there in Kerala itself. I would request the hon. Home Minister that we need Navy assistance, Coast Guard and we also need additional units of National Disaster Response Force. Also, a special financial package should be given to the State of Kerala. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Mullappally Ramachandran,

Dr. Shashi Tharoor,

Shri M.K. Raghavan,

Dr. Kulmani Samal,

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena and

Shri Rajeev Satav are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.

गृह मंत्री (श्री राजनाथ सिंह): अध्यक्ष महोदया, केरला में फ्लड सिचुएशन के कारण क्राइसिस पैदा हुई है और कुछ दिनों पहले मैंने अपने सहयोगी श्री किरन रिजीजु को वहां पर सर्वेक्षण करने के लिए भेजा था। उन्होंने वहां जाकर स्थिति का जायजा लिया है। मैं आज भी वहां के चीफ मिनिस्टर से बात करने की कोशिश कर रहा था, लेकिन मेरी बात नहीं हो पायी है। लौटने के बाद मैं पुनः उनसे बात करूंगा। इतना मैं आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट के द्वारा जिस प्रकार के असिस्टेंस की जरूरत होगी, वह असिस्टेंस हम प्रोवाइड करायेंगे।
