

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need for immediate assistance to victims affected by endosulfan in Kerala.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I would like to urge upon the Government to sanction financial assistance to Endosulfan victims of the Kasargod district of Kerala, and also to the victims in some places of Karnataka.

Endosulfan is a highly toxic pesticide. It has been used for a long time in the cashew plantations by companies. As a result about 600 people have lost their lives. Madam, 10,000 people are taking treatment. I have been raising this issue in the House many times in the past. The Government of Kerala has taken a number of measures. Pension scheme is implemented; free ration is given; medical facilities are given.

In the recent times, the Supreme Court has given a verdict to the effect that compensation should be paid to these victims. It is also stated that the Central Government also has to give its share. The State Government has requested for Rs.483 crore to meet the expenses in this regard. But the Central Government has not yet extended any assistance. This issue should be taken as a humanitarian grounds as it is considered as a very big issue affecting women, children and others. Hence, I would request the Government to sanction financial assistance of Rs.483 crore to Kerala.

माननीय अध्यक्ष :

सर्वश्री पी.के. बिजू,

श्री एम.बी. राजेश,

एडवोकेट जोएस जॉर्ज,

डॉ. ए. सम्पत,

श्रीमती पी.के. श्रीमथि टीचर को श्री पी. करुणाकरन द्वारा उठाये गये विषय से संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।