

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to Kerala for outbreak of Nipha virus and cyclone 'Ockhi'.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like to place before the House and before the Government some serious issues relating not only to the State of Kerala but also its other neighbouring states.

One among them is the Ockhi which has adversely affected various parts of Kerala and its fishermen. Seventy-one fishermen have died. There was a big loss to the lands and agricultural produce. A large number of houses were destroyed. Infrastructural facilities like electricity, telephone lines and roads were highly damaged. The State Government has taken all possible steps by giving compensation to the relatives of deceased persons; providing hospital facilities to the injured; and also rehabilitating those whose houses were destroyed. The State Government has given a comprehensive cyclone-relief package amounting to Rs. 7,340 crore but at present, according to the disaster management norms, only Rs. 422 crore has been sanctioned.

It is a very meagre amount. Also, we have requested the Government to consider it as a natural calamity. Then only the State can get it.

The other issue which is also affecting Kerala is Nipah which is a very serious virus which has affected some parts of the State especially Calicut. Madam, 17 persons have lost their lives. But, our excellent doctors could find out the reasons behind Nipah. It is very serious. Within time, they could take all measures in order to stop further spreading of the disease. I appreciate that the Health Minister has visited the place and appreciated the work of the State Ministers and also others. World Health Organisation also has praised the work of

the State Government. But the sad issue is that we have not got sufficient funds either on the issue of Ockhi or Nipah. We have to take a very big burden on this issue.

So, I would request the Central Government to take up this issue as a humanitarian issue; otherwise it is not possible for the Government to go further without having this huge amount. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

Dr. Kulmani Samal,

Adv. Joice George,

Dr. P.K. Biju,

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena and

Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.