

## Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding release of funds for damage caused by cyclone 'Gaja'.

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR): I would like to request the Union Government to release funds for Cyclone 'Gaja' which severely affected the crops, uprooted lakhs of coconut trees, teak trees, destroyed houses, killed villagers, smashed boats, destroyed thousands of electric poles and transformers etc. People faced untold suffering after Cyclone 'Gaja' wiped out everything from their houses. It has made the rich and middle class poor overnight. Our Honorable Chief Minister sought assistance to the tune of Rs.14,910 crore towards relief. The state Government has also sought Rs. 1431 crore towards temporary relief and restoration work. A sum of Rs. 7,077 crore has been sought for permanent restoration work by the Electricity Department, which is working round the clock to install over one lakh electric poles that fell due to the Cyclone. For granting relief for those who lost their homes, Rs.6000 crore has been sought. But the Central Government released a meagre amount which is not at all sufficient comparing the damages caused by Cyclone Gaja. Since the destruction due to the Cyclone was greater than in the past, our Tamil Nadu Government was on its toes with regard to restoration. Further, I have to point out that the Central team, which visited Cyclone 'Gaja' affected areas in Tamil Nadu appreciated the State Government's efforts in undertaking precautionary measures and said that such efforts had helped in saving lives. Cyclone 'Gaja' has wrought terrible devastation and the Central Government's relief and restoration amount must match it in scale. Hence, I request the Union Government to release more fund to deal with the destruction caused by the mighty Cyclone 'Gaja'.