

[Shri K. Kunhambu]

and provides relief to the affected people, the problem is so serious that the State Government alone is not able to meet the situation fully. There are cholera and epidemic in that area. The financial capacity of the State is limited. Therefore, the Central Government should come forward and provide liberal financial assistance to the State Government for providing immediate relief to the people and rehabilitating them later on.

(v) NEED FOR IMMEDIATE STEPS TO SAVE ADIVASIS OF TALIKAKKULLU IN PALGHAT (KERALA) FROM STARVATION

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): I wish to bring to the notice of the House a very sad and heartening report about the death of Adivasis living in Talikakkullu, on Tenmala hills in the Palghat district of Kerala.

These adivasis are living deep in the dense forest which is inaccessible. They have not got anything to eat ever since the rains have started in Kerala. About 30 of them including women and children are living in small huts. They have over the years acquired the habit of eating rice, tapioca, fish etc. but now they do not get any of these things. Due to rain, even the jungle fruits and roots of plants are not available.

Ever since rains have started all these adivasi people are virtually starving. Some of them have died as they caught fever. About a few weeks ago, a 20 year old a man died of fever. In another case, a 4 year old child died because of starvation. Three deaths have occurred because neither food nor medicines are available to them.

Unfortunately the Govt. has no record about these Adivasis. Their names are not there in the census document or voters list. As a result of this, they are not getting any benefit

from the Govt. They are not to be found even in the list of tribals, They belong to the Malaya Tribe of Adivasis.

Since the Centre too has a responsibility to protect the Adivasis, I earnestly request the Govt. to take immediate steps to protect the Adivasis in Talikakkattu from starvation and death.

(vi) NEED FOR CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO ORISSA GOVERNMENT TO MEET THE DROUGHT SITUATION

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): The State of Orissa has experienced perhaps the worse ever drought last year which has rendered a crippling blow to the agriculturists of the entire State of Orissa. Not only that, the farmers have lost all that they had sown on their fields, and they have been involved in huge debts. They had taken loans from co-operative societies and also takkavi loans from Government, but because of the scourge of drought, they have lost everything. So pitiable is their condition that these farmers having already sold their household belongings, find themselves in huge debts. Unless they pay them off, they will not get fresh loans either from the co-operative society or from the Government, and without such financial assistance, they have nothing but to starve and die.

The Government of Orissa had submitted a note on Drought Management in Orissa (1979-80) to the Prime Minister during her visit to Orissa on 3rd May, 1980. The State Government had requested the Central Government to give Rs. 16.62 crores to pay off the loans that were taken by the cultivators from the co-operative societies and also to pay off the takkavi loans, so that the farmers during the current rainy season once again are able to plugne in full swing in their agricultural activities. The Central Government fully realising the gravity of the