

season and then recommend to the Government to give necessary Central assistance to the farmers without any further delay.

- (ii) **Need to give Central assistance to Kerala Government for providing relief to Cyclone affected people**

[Translation]

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): The recent cyclone and flood in Kerala have caused extensive damage to life and property. The total damage estimated is more than Rs. 500 crores. Roads and bridges have been extensively damaged. Transport services which were disrupted in many parts of the State have not been restored so far.

Palakkad is considered to be the rice bowl of Kerala. Chittur is one of the three main taluks where paddy is grown. In the flash flood that occurred in this district, the Muttera Dam which used to supply water for agriculture has been totally damaged. It is estimated that an amount of at least Rs. 50 lakh will be needed to repair this dam. If it is not repaired on a war-footing, the farmers of this district will not be able to raise the next crop. The consequence will be unbearable for a State like Kerala which is deficit in food. This will cause starvation deaths.

apart from the damage to property, loss of life has also been very great. According to official estimates, 42 persons lost their lives. A large number of people were either injured or are missing.

This calamity has put out of gear the life of the ordinary people. Life can be restored to normalcy only with a liberal help of the Central Government.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to release special assistance from the Calamity Relief Fund immediately and help Kerala.

- (iii) **Need to provide minimum wages and basic amenities like housing, medical assistance etc. to tribal workers engaged in mining activities in Birmitrapur, Sundargarh district, Orissa**

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the problems of workers in Birmitrapur in Sundargarh district, Orissa. Thousands of workers are engaged in the mining activities at B.S.L. and other mines in the Birmitrapur area. In fact, their only source of livelihood is from B.S.L. But it is regrettable that the workers are facing great difficulty as they are not being paid minimum wages. Each worker gets only Rs. 10 a day. The mine owners and contractors are exploiting the workers. Most of the workers belong to tribal community. The company or the mine owners are not providing them houses, education facility to their children etc. They are not even getting potable drinking water. As a result of which they are prone to various ailments. Most of the workers are suffering from T.B., Cancer and several other dreaded diseases. No arrangement is being made by the company to provide any kind of medical assistance to the sick.

I urge upon the Government to provide minimum wages and basic amenities to the workers engaged in mining activities at B.S.L. and other mines of Birmitrapur.

- (iv) **Need to set up an electronic telephone exchange at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bareilly is an important industrial metropolis of North-India. A demand for setting up of an electronic telephone exchange with a capacity of ten thousand lines at Bareilly is being made for