

When they visit hospitals to see critically ill people in their Constituency or State, or the people who have been victimised by the police, Patwari, landlords, tenants or by any natural calamity, they feel terribly helpless as they have no funds under their discretion to extend any help to the victims, critically ill people and the parents who are unable to bear the expenses of marriage of their daughter.

The situation turns more embarrassing when they are accompanied by any Minister of that State who announces some financial help from his discretionary quota on-the-spot, while MPs are supposed to contribute much more than a Minister of the State. Moreover, the financial help announced by the Minister of that State is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the unfortunate people who are struck by any of the said problems. In such a situation, if the concerned Member of Parliament is also able to lend a helping hand, along with the State Minister, that would prove to be a big relief for the people.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government, through this august House, to establish a discretionary quota for Members of Parliament so that they can help the people on the spot by announcing some financial help out of their MPLADS, during this visit. Thank you.

Demand for urban infrastructure development scheme for small and medium towns

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, in the State Government of Maharashtra, under the Central Government's guidelines, the State-Level Sanctioning Committee, has sanctioned 8 DPRs of the Latur Municipality and the proposal for urban infrastructure development scheme for small and medium towns was submitted to the Government of India vide No. MMRDA/PD/NURM/06/50, dated 2nd February, 2006. The same proposal has been sanctioned by the State-Level Sanctioning Committee. Out of 8 DPRs, Rs. 4,34,280 crores have been sanctioned by the Government of India for 6 DPRs. The Sanctioning Committee needs to pay immediate attention to Kolhapur, Sangli-Miraj Kupwad, Shirdi, Islampur, Pusad, Ashta, Chopda, Mangalweda, Ambad, Bhore, Bhadrawati, Jalna and Sawner.

To get the Central assistance for Detailed Project Reports, DPRs, of the above two Municipal Corporations and 11 Municipal Councils, MoAs have to be signed with the Government of India.

The State Government Corporations as well as the State level Nodal Agency have been pursuing the matter with the Central Government to sanction the projects. The Corporations and Councils have already given clarification on the technical points raised by the Government of India in the meeting. The Central Government's approval is still awaited. I urge upon the Government to take immediate decision on these schemes. Thank you.

Demand for more allotment from contingency relief fund for Kerala

SHRI V. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, the State of Kerala witnessed heavy rainfall and flood during monsoon season in 2005 in which nearly 180 lives were lost and 11,44,350 houses were damaged, and a loss of nearly Rs. 500 crores was estimated in agriculture and other cash crops. Soon after this flood and other calamities, the State of Kerala submitted a detailed report and requested for Central assistance for rehabilitation, after which a Central team visited the State and submitted its report.

It is unfortunate to note here that the Central Government allotted only Rs. 89.77 crores from the C.R.F. for the State of Kerala. Considering the huge loss in the cash crops, the amount sanctioned for Kerala is too small. It is regretted to note that from this amount of Rs. 89.77 crores, so far only Rs. 33.67 crores had been given to this State from C.R.F. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to enhance this amount, as requested by the State Government from C.R.F., and also to release the remaining amount at the earliest.

Demand for factual assessment of flood affected areas in Bihar

श्री मंगनी लाल मंडल (बिहार) : महोदय, भारत सरकार के द्वारा उदघाटित किया गया है कि अब बिहार में 4,986 मिलियन हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र बाढ़ प्रभावित है। किन्तु यह आंकड़ा विश्वसनीय प्रतीत नहीं होता है क्योंकि अविभाजित बिहार में बाढ़ प्रभावित क्षेत्र करीब 68 लाख हेक्टेयर था। भारत सरकार ने इस स्थिति को न सिर्फ स्वीकार किया था, बल्कि बिहार में बाढ़ नियंत्रण के लिए किए गए सभी प्रयासों का आधार भी 68 लाख हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र ही था। परन्तु यदि बिहार में 4,986 मिलियन हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र अर्थात् 49 लाख 86 हजार हेक्टेयर मान भी लिया जाए तो राज्य के पुनर्गठन के पश्चात झारखंड के जिसे बाढ़ प्रभावित क्षेत्र को रेखांकित करना बिहार के हित में आवश्यक है। ज्ञातव्य है