

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Need for giving interim financial assistance to Puducherry in view of damages caused there due to heavy floods

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY (Puducherry): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, Puducherry and Karaikal regions have been battered by the recent heavy rains and consequent flooding during the last one month. Incessant rains, often down pouring, made drainage of storm water more difficult. The stagnated water has invaded low-lying residential areas and agricultural fields. Roads and bridges have been completely damaged, bed-dams have been breached, and several buildings have collapsed. For days together, fishermen could not venture into the sea; daily labourers could not earn their livelihood and people have been confined to their houses. In short, life of people has become very miserable.

The Union Territory of Puducherry normally receives an average of 76.7 cm of rainfall during the North-East monsoon from October to December. But, as much as 83.4 cm of rain has been recorded this year in the month of November alone, which accounts for 15.3 per cent more rain this year.

Sir, agriculture is the most affected sector. Out of 10,172 hectares of land under cultivation, about 3,950 hectares of cultivated crops have been inundated, affecting about 12,000 farmers. The total crops have been perished. The roads measuring to an extent of 583 kms have become unfit for transportation and have to be completely re-laid. About 223 small bridges and 38 irrigation canals have also been very badly damaged. Already demands for flood relief and compensation have been raised by various sections of people.

The Government of India had, last week, deputed a Central team of officers to estimate the damage caused in Puducherry. After the visit of the Central team, the intensity of the rain had further worsened, posing a threat to the life of the people of Puducherry. I, once again, appeal to the Government of India to send another team of officers to assess the quantum of damage. The Government of Puducherry has also estimated the damages as Rs. 300 crores. Presently, the Government of Puducherry is reeling under severe financial crisis and it would be extremely difficult for the Government to divert funds for managing the damages caused by unprecedented rainfall in the month of November 2021.

Weathermen forecast more rainy days as the North-East monsoon may last for another one month. Forthcoming cyclonic storms and depressions would only further escalate the estimated damages. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Your time is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing is going on record now. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. It is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, hon. Member, Shri Vaiko to make his submission on the need to ensure better working conditions for Tamil workers of tea estates Sri Lanka. ...*(Interruptions)*... You had given Zero Hour notice on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... Need to ensure better working conditions for Tamil workers of tea estates in Sri Lanka. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): But, today, I want to pay my homage to Shri Bipin Rawat.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have already paid the homage.

SHRI VAIKO: Allow me to speak tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, give a fresh notice for that. Now, Dr. Fauzia Khan.