

can be done is, we can express our solidarity. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay, I will call the Members to be very brief and one by one, and I will give precedent to those who came to me first in point of time. Now, Dr. John Brittas.

Devastation caused due to massive landslide in Wayanad District of Kerala

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Thank you very much, Sir, for your kind indulgence. This is a serious matter, a bipartisan matter. A heavy tragedy has struck Kerala. The death toll has gone up and we are fearing more deaths. Four villages have been cut off and there have been coordinated efforts. The Chief Minister is camping in Wayanad. As you know, the Wayanad is a picturesque place but mountain plateau. So, we really want the indulgence of the Government of India, especially, the help of the Ministries like Defence, Home and Finance. Already, there are amounts pending in the Disaster Fund. So, we want the military to send their dispatches to Kerala; and the Finance Ministry to lend their hand to Kerala. We request that all possible assistance to Kerala be provided. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri Sandosh Kumar P.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P (Kerala): Already, 50 deaths have been confirmed there. It is likely to rise up to 300 or 400.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is so unfortunate and painful.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P: It is very unfortunate. I don't want to talk much on this issue. I would like to request, through you, Sir, to declare this as a national disaster. This is number one. Number two, there is a new scheme announced by the hon. Finance Minister, and Bihar, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are a part of it. I would like to request the Government to include Kerala in that list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, don't make a political speech on this incident.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P: Sir, the only request is to include Kerala... Kerala is an ecologically fragile place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, I got your point.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P: See, Kerala is your land also, Sir. It is a land of everyone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you have made a good point. You have made your point.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P: Also, grant compensation to those who have died. These are the three demands, please understand.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB (Kerala): Early morning today, the Prime Minister of India and everybody, consulted our Chief Minister; we accept and we have got respect. But, now the issue is that there is no money with Kerala Government. At least, immediately, you have to release some money to move all these things. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, one by one. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will give you the opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*... Take your seats.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Sir, I am from Wayanad Constituency and I am leaving now, irrespective of Question Hour and all. Now, I am leaving for Wayanad. We are going to meet the people. We have to say something from the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Jose K. Mani.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, if you want to know the gravity of the situation, the bodies or more than 25 persons have been found 40 kilometers downstream in a different district in Calicut. So, you should understand the gravity of the situation. Five hundred families are stranded over there. More deaths are being reported every minute. Can't we have two minutes to express our grievance? And the Government is not ready to listen! We have the first hand information than the people sitting on the Treasury Benches...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOSE K. MANI(Kerala): Don't put any political point on this. Please give all assistance from the Central Government in Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Sir, the devastation caused landslide tragedy in Wayanad cannot be measured at this moment. It is so vast. It is so devastative that 43 persons, which include of little babies to the elderly, being washed away. And families have been swept away. It is not just one person from family; but we hear about deaths of a number of persons from one family or another. We have the first hand information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, say something.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: So, our request is that the Government should immediately declare this as a national disaster, provide Rs. 5,000 crores package immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, a bridge is collapsed. Some temporary arrangement should be made in respect of that bridge. Temporary bridge has to be constructed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat now. I have made a mistake in giving you the floor.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: The NDRF and helicopter facilities should be provided immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat now. Nothing will go on record now. Shri A.A. Rahim; only two minutes.

SHRI A.A. RAHIM(Kerala): Sir, this is a very painful day for every Keralite. Please consider our situation. We are praying for assistance from the Union Government. Sir, we are praying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are you saying?

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Just a minute, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't make a political speech. You are not aware; before sunrise, people were in action. Before sunrise, the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister have been in action. Don't do this, please. You are not aware of what is happening. No, no. Don't make it political.

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Sir, I am trying to express my feelings. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, please, just a minute. The Union Government should ensure proper rescue process and please assist us for the proper rescue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, point well taken. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Leader of the House, ...*(Interruptions)*... You may associate, ...*(Interruptions)*... You have said so; I cannot open a debate like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not a debate. Please ...*(Interruptions)*... One second, Sir, you have half a minute.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, Wayanad is very near to my home village. A very painful incident has happened there. The intervention of the Central Government and proper assistance from the Government is very necessary. Sir, the Government should ensure that the financial assistance and all possible assistance should be given to the State. This is my humble request. We should help the families. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Leader of the House, ...*(Interruptions)*... no, we cannot go like that. Are we scoring points or are we expressing our concern? ...*(Interruptions)*... Are we expressing concern or scoring points? ...*(Interruptions)*... Do not do it, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, hon. Leader of the House and, before that, let me tell you, hon. Members, when I came, even before that I was aware of it, I updated myself and I found it very gratifying ...*(Interruptions)*... One minute. I found it very gratifying that hon. Chief Minister was very active, the Prime Minister was active, the agencies are in coordination. They are doing everything that can possibly be done. No time has been lost in this. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is convergence. Now, the Leader of the House.

सभा के नेता (श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा): सभापति जी, जैसा कि अभी यहाँ चर्चा शुरू हुई और सभी माननीय सदस्यों ने एक तरीके से अपनी चिंता व्यक्त की। वहाँ जो घटना घटी है, जो त्रासदी हुई है, वह एक बड़ी त्रासदी है और उसके प्रति उन्होंने कंसर्न शो किया है। मैं एक ही बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो त्रासदी है, यह सिर्फ केरल की त्रासदी नहीं है, बल्कि सारा देश इससे द्रवित है। यहाँ पर हाउस के सभी लोग, चाहे इस पक्ष के हों या उस पक्ष के हों, सभी पार्टियों के लोग द्रवित हैं और सभी दुखी हैं कि यह जो घटना घटी है, यह natural calamity है। भारत सरकार भी प्रधान मंत्री मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में प्रो-एक्टिव होकर केरल में राहत कार्य के लिए जो भी आवश्यक है, वह कर रही है और आगे भी किया जाएगा। मैं सरकार की तरफ से यह आश्वासन देता हूँ कि जो भी जरूरत होगी, वह पूरी की जाएगी। हमारा उद्बलित होना स्वाभाविक है, लेकिन इस तरह की घटना को एड्रेस करने का एक स्टैंडर्ड प्रोसीजर है। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने केरल के मुख्य मंत्री जी

से बात की, उनको आश्वासन भी दिया। वहाँ पर रिलीफ के लिए हमारी जो एजेंसीज हैं, उनकी तरफ से जो सपोर्ट जाना चाहिए, वह वहाँ पर पहुँच गई है और पहुँचाई जा रही है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के साथ कोऑर्डिनेशन में काम चल रहा है। अभी इस वक्त जो प्राइमरी जरूरत है, वह इस बात की है कि बॉडीज़ को निकाला जाए और जो बचने की स्थिति में हैं, उनको बचाया जाए। हम हेल्थ की दृष्टि से वहाँ पर काम करें, emergency response system को एक्टिवेट करें - ये सारी चीजें की जा रही हैं। आपकी भावनाओं के साथ हम सब जुड़े हैं। हम सब लोग उनके साथ हैं।

महोदय, मैं फिर से एक ही बात कहना चाहूँगा कि मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में चलने वाली सरकार प्रो-एक्टिव है, प्रो-रेस्पॉंसिव है और हम उसको पूरा करेंगे।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. John Brittas; on an issue like this... ..(Interruptions)...

श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा: सभापति जी, मैं जॉन ब्रिट्टास जी की भावनाओं का सम्मान करता हूँ, लेकिन हम जिस जगह पर बैठे हैं और आप जिस जगह पर बैठे हैं, सिर्फ उद्देलित होने से काम नहीं चलता है। We have to translate it into action. And if there is any suggestion that we have to improve something in our action, please do that. We are together, we are no different. हम एक जैसे हैं, इसलिए मैं सरकार की तरफ से हाउस और हाउस के साथ-साथ देश को आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ कोई कमी नहीं छोड़ी जाएगी और उसको पूरा किया जाएगा।

कोयला मंत्री; तथा खान मंत्री (श्री जी. किशन रेड्डी) : आदरणीय चेयरमैन सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: G. Kishan Reddyji, are you saying anything in addition to what the Leader of the House said?

SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY: Yes, Sir. आदरणीय चेयरमैन सर, भारत सरकार की तरफ से ...(व्यवधान)....मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ आर्मी फोर्स ऑलरेडी पहुँच गई है। इसके लिए सारी पार्टीज़ और गवर्नमेंट्स को मिलकर काम करना है। आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के आदेश पर मैं इस संबंध में एक बात यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि लास्ट वीक ही the National Landslide Forecasting Institute का गठन किया गया है। ...(व्यवधान).... आगे यह भारत सरकार की ओर से पूरे देश में काम करेगा।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: Sir, a condolence message can be passed by this House.(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, take your seat.(Interruptions).... Please, can you take your seat?(Interruptions)....I tell you, all of us are doing great disservice. This is not the way to score a point.(Interruptions)...

HE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): Sir, hon. Members have raised their concern and the hon. Leader of the House has already made the position clear. The Government will, definitely, if the Chair direct and the House agrees, try to come back with details of the incident. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, the fact is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you take your seat? ...*(Interruptions)*...Or, do you want me to send you out of the House? ...*(Interruptions)*... Why are you rising up every time? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: I am ready, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are ready, you may leave. ...*(Interruptions)*... What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Sir, any natural calamity is a serious concern for everyone. As the hon. Leader of the House already mentioned, I just want to make a small clarification, because two of the hon. Members have said that the Central Government has not released funds. Sir, Shri Chidambaram is here. He was Home Minister. I handled this Ministry for five years. Funds are always placed in advance, in the beginning of the year, with the State Government from the resources pooled together by the State Government and the Central Government under the SDRF. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, that is all wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Sir, what is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. John Brittas, if you rise any further, I will have to make observation not palatable. Don't do it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Sir, this is not the time to play politics. This is a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*...So, Sir... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am absolutely pained. Mr. John Brittas, it is such a solemn occasion... ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, the point is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why? You are interrupting again. Why? Don't you allow the Minister to say something?

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, he said that...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Listen to him. You will also have to hear me what I will be saying. Please bear with us, understand, digest and then proceed. Now, hon. Minister.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Shri George Kurien, was sent by the hon. Prime Minister early morning. He is a Minister in the Union Government and he comes from Kerala. So, he has already been sent to Kerala early morning. On top of that, the NDRF, the SDRF, the Disaster Response Force, the Central Armed Police Forces and the Indian Military Forces have all been activated and are already on the job and working on the ground. They are already there. To connect with them, the Indian Air Force has been activated. And, for that matter, Sir, I would like to inform the House that hon. Leader of the House has already mentioned about it. Now, the issue is about immediate relief and rescue.

Sir, in any disaster, the first step is relief and rescue. Then comes recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation. So, we have to go step-by-step. Right now, it is the time for rescue and relief. This is the most immediate requirement in any kind of natural calamity, wherever it occurs. So, Sir, my only request and submission, echoing with the sentiments raised by all the hon. Members and the hon. Leader of the House, is that the Government is doing whatever is to be done in coordination with the State Government. I will ask the Home Ministry to come out with a detailed report, if the House wants, as early as possible.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Ask the hon. Member to take her seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... No. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: Sir, a condolence message can be passed by the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; it is only for the benefit of everyone and myself. There is the Disaster Management Act, 2005. This Act has a very strong mechanism, right from the District Disaster Management, the State Disaster Management and the National Disaster Management. And, one of our distinguished Members, Shri Jairam Ramesh, while the Bill was being taken into consideration in 2005, made very elaborate submissions. I would urge the hon. Members that there is a mechanism in place. Once you activate that mechanism, things automatically move in tandem. And, it is a case where, even during the night, all who were to act are acting.

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Jebi Mathern Hisham: Shri Imran Pratapgarhi (Maharashtra), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand) and Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Vivek. K. Tankha on 'Concern over unavailability of NCERT books.'

Concern over unavailability of NCERT Books

SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, let me start with homage to the people we lost in Wayanad. But my subject today is that the new academic session has begun, but the NCERT books are out of stock. Lucknow city itself has more than five lakh students who are facing this shortage. As Nelson Mandela said, "No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated". Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. There are 10,22,000 Government schools and 82,480 Government-aided schools. Twenty-six crore students are studying up to class twelfth. Out of which, twelve crore students are in Government schools. As per the RTE Act, the curriculum is set by the NCERT. And, the NCERT is the agency which has to ensure distribution of books. And, there is a huge shortage of books after the academic session started in April. The shortage is to the extent that even the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been writing to schools to make these books available. But, unless these books reach the States and the towns in the city, it is very difficult for students to study. So, putting it in short, one suggestion is that, for long term, like we have blood banks, why can't we have