

Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla: Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala) and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

Demand for Bharat Ratna for Veer Savarkar and Rash Behari Bose

SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, honours exceptional contributions to the nation. Two great freedom fighters, Veer Savarkar and Rash Behari Bose, deserve this recognition for their role in India's struggle for independence. Veer Savarkar was a fearless revolutionary and a nationalist thinker. His book, 'Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?', introduced the idea of cultural nationalism. Savarkar spent 27 years in prison, including the harsh Cellular Jail in Andaman, for his fight against British rule. Despite immense suffering, he remained committed to India's freedom. His efforts to unite Indians against colonial oppression deserve the nation's highest award.

Rash Behari Bose was another remarkable leader who fought for India's independence. He played a key role in the Ghadar Movement and later worked with Indian revolutionaries in Japan. He founded the Indian National Army (INA) paving the way for Subhas Chandra Bose to lead it in its campaigns against the British. Bose's efforts built international support for India's freedom and showed his dedication to the cause.

Both leaders demonstrated unmatched courage and vision in their fight for India's independence. Recognizing them with the Bharat Ratna would honor their sacrifices and inspire future generations to follow their ideals of patriotism and nation building. It is time to acknowledge their invaluable contributions and give them the honour they truly deserve. I urge the Government to look into it.

Demand for setting up a dedicated cell to assist Indian citizens abroad facing medical emergencies or serious illness

SHRI P.P. SUNEER (Kerala): Many Indian citizens live and work overseas, far from their home country. A large number of these citizens belong to my home State of Kerala. Myself and many of my colleagues here receive many requests to intervene in cases of medical emergencies abroad. Our citizens abroad are vulnerable to health emergencies and illnesses that may require immediate medical attention and to address this, institutional effort is needed. Availing healthcare systems in foreign

countries can be complicated, especially if language barriers or unfamiliarity with local healthcare procedures come into play. In these critical moments, a dedicated cell by the Government of India, specifically tasked with assisting citizens facing health crises abroad, would prove to be of great value.

This cell could offer guidance, facilitate communication with medical facilities and ensure that citizens receive proper treatment without the added stress of unfamiliar processes. Such a specialized cell should also play a role in coordinating medical evacuations when necessary, ensuring that citizens who require urgent treatment or specialized care that is unavailable locally can be transported back to India or to another suitable healthcare facility. It could also provide critical information on health insurance, legal matters, and financial assistance in case of emergencies. Given the growing number of Indian expatriates and the increasing frequency of global mobility, establishing this kind of support system would not only provide peace of mind for Indian citizens living or travelling abroad but also reaffirm the Government of India's commitment to the welfare of its citizens.

I urge the Government to look into it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri P.P. Suneer: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala) and Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala).

Shri Niranjana Bishi. Not present. Shri Pramod Tiwari.

Demand to declare lightning strike as a natural calamity

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (राजस्थान): महोदय, बिजली गिरने से होने वाली मौतों की संख्या पिछले कुछ समय से बढ़ रही है। अगर यह दैवीय आपदाओं की सूची में शामिल हो जाती है, तो पीड़ित राज्य आपदा प्रतिक्रिया निधि से मुआवजे के हकदार होंगे, जिसमें से 75 प्रतिशत केंद्र द्वारा वित्त पोषित है। वर्तमान में संबंधित राज्य सरकारों द्वारा पीड़ितों के परिजनों को दिया जाने वाला मुआवजा बेहद अपर्याप्त है। बिजली गिरने से होने वाली उच्च मृत्यु दर को देखते हुए, अब समय आ गया है कि केंद्र सरकार इसे दैवीय आपदा घोषित करे।

राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो के अनुसार 1967 और 2020 के बीच बिजली गिरने से 1,01,309 मौतें हुई हैं, जबकि 2010 और 2020 के बीच हताहतों की संख्या में तेज वृद्धि हुई है।