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Title: Regarding setting up of a rehabilitation village for people affected by endosulfan in Kasaragod, Kerala.

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise a maiden issue in this august House on a subject which attracts paramount priority and importance associated with my Parliamentary constituency Kasaragod, which is in the northern part of Kerala bordering Karnataka.

From 1975 to 2000, the Plantation Corporation of Kerala was using helicopters to spread the pesticide on cashew plantation on 12,000 acres. The residues of the pesticide would spread far and wide via wind and rain, affecting Kasaragod and neighbouring regions in Karnataka as well. More than 1,000 innocent people were killed and almost 6,000 people and several animals were affected. The Endosulfan contaminated the water bodies in the area and mutilated the genes of unborn children. The endosulfan was banned in 2000. Even after that, many new-born babies are having physical deformities and genetic disorders. Thousands of children are born with congenital disabilities, diseases of nervous system, cerebral palsy and other severe physical and mental disabilities. The victims of this man-made disaster from my constituency are still fighting a long frustrating battle demanding adequate rehabilitation packages, financial aid and healthcare facilities. So, I demand that the Central Government may take immediate steps on humanitarian grounds to build a state-of-the-art rehabilitation village for the victims and provide them with immediate and adequate financial help as well.

