

**Need to declare devastation caused due to landslides in Wayanad as National Disaster?**

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI (RAEBARELI):** Sir, there has been a tragedy in Wayanad. ?  
(*Interruptions*) I am absolutely amazed that they are not allowing us to give a statement on this. ? (*Interruptions*)

Sir, thank you for permitting me. ? (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You have given a notice on Wayanad. Please speak only on Wayanad.

? (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:** I am speaking on Wayanad. ? (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please sit down.

? (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** What is your problem? ? (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Rahul ji, you speak.

? (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Rahul ji, you speak.

? (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:** Sir, thank you for permitting me to raise this issue of the tragedy in Wayanad. ? (*Interruptions*) I visited Wayanad with my sister some days back and I saw with my own eyes the devastation, the pain and the sufferings that resulted from this tragedy. ? (*Interruptions*)

Sir, thank you for permitting me to raise the issue of the tragedy in Wayanad.

I visited Wayanad with my sister some days ago and I saw with my own eyes the devastation, the pain, and the suffering that were resulted from this tragedy. Almost two kms of the hill had just collapsed and a river of stones and mud had

come down. More than 200 people are dead and a vast number of people are missing. The eventual casualties are going to be 400 plus as it seems. I would like to commend the work of the Union and the State Governments, NDRF, SDRF, Army, Navy, Coastguard, district administration, Forest Department, Fire and Rescue Department, and the health personnel. An assistance was also given by States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. It was also nice to see that all communities came together. Everybody came together to help the people. People from different ideologies and different communities came together and helped.

The landslides have cut vital routes and made it nearly impossible for the rescue teams to reach the affected area. This is a huge tragedy and a very concentrated tragedy took place in one specific area. So, I would urge the Union Government to give a comprehensive rehabilitation package for Wayanad, including for building disaster resilient infrastructure and help the affected communities. I would also like to urge the Union Government to enhance the compensation that people are getting. And finally, I would also like to urge the Government to declare the Wayanad landslides as a national disaster.

I saw it with my own eyes and I have seen many disasters. Many times, I have visited different places where the disasters have taken place but it was very, very sad to see here that in a number of cases, only one member of a family is left. Mother, father, grandmother and brother - everybody is dead, and there is only a person remaining. Sometimes, the person left is a child or an adult. It was a real tragedy to see that. I would like to thank the entire House for the support that everybody has given to the people of Wayanad.