

**Title:** Need for early release of Central assistance to flood victims of West Bengal.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were heavy floods in West Bengal in the month of September this year. Ten districts are totally devastated. The Government of West Bengal had requested for financial assistance from the Government of India to the tune of Rs.725 crore. A Central team also visited West Bengal. They have made a recommendation to make financial assistance of Rs.125 crore, but not a single farthing has been given to West Bengal to combat this flood devastation. This is very very important because West Bengal is a flood-prone area and everywhere we are witnessing floods. Central assistance is not coming. Hon. Finance Minister is here. We want reaction from him why not even a single farthing has been given to West Bengal Government to combat this devastation. This is very important. All the roads are flooded and all the houses have collapsed. The death toll is high. It is more than 5,500. No financial assistance has been given by the Central Government. I want reaction from the hon. Finance Minister.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can also associate with them.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Half of my Constituency is seriously affected. Even during election, we had to face the serious problem of floods. I am sure the hon. Minister is aware of the extent of damage. But the only thing is some quick response should be made by the Central Government so that money is made available to West Bengal Government. This is the problem. You know what is happening to the citizens of this country. They are like sitting ducks. Unfortunately, they cannot float on water like ducks! They are becoming the targets of misery whenever floods come. There is no protection, relief or rehabilitation to them. Money is a serious problem.

">Therefore, I request the hon. Finance Minister and the Government as a whole to render financial assistance to the flood victims of West Bengal. Shri Naveen Patnaik realises the havoc which his State is facing. We are all sharing the same concern. Urgent relief work should be undertaken soon to save the people and to rehabilitate them.

**>श्री अशोक अर्गल (मुरैना) : हमने तीन दिन से नोटिस दिया है।**

... (व्यवधान)

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**>अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको भी बुलाएंगे।**

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">SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): What is the reaction of the hon. Finance Minister?

">... (Interruptions)

">SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Mr. Finance Minister, why can you not respond? ... (Interruptions)

">MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Finance Minister has to go to the other House also. If the House agrees, Item 14 Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) may be taken up.

">SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

">... (Interruptions)

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**>श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (सम्भल) : हिन्दी में बोलिये।**

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**वित्त मंत्री (श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा) : चूंकि जो आदरणीय सदस्य हैं, वे तत्काल प्रतिक्रिया चाह रहे हैं, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि यह मामला जैसे सारे माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं कि कृषि मंत्रालय के द्वारा इसका निष्पादन होता है**

... (व्यवधान)

वैसे तो हर विभाग का फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री से संबंध है, लेकिन कृषि विभाग का इससे संबंध है। मैं माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी के ध्यान में आपकी चिन्ता को लाऊंगा और उनसे निवेदन करूंगा कि पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार की तरफ से अगर उनके पास इस प्रकार का कोई प्रतिवेदन आया है, उनकी जांच टीम ने जांच कर ली है तो आगे कार्रवाई कर लें। मैं इतना बताऊंगा कि जो सप्लीमेंटरी डिमांड्स मैंने रखी हैं, उससे इसमें सहूलियत होगी।

... (व्यवधान)

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