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Title : Recent outbreak of Malaria in Assam resulting in death of 400 persons.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the recent outbreak of malaria in Assam. From the month of March, this epidemic had started and it has taken more than 700 lives. The worst affected areas are Lakhimpur and Tamulpur where more than 600 people have died so far. This epidemic could not be controlled due to serious lapse of the Government both at the Centre and at the State. Preventive measures for the malaria control were inadequate. The spraying equipment in spare were also not sent either from the Centre or the State Government. Due to inappropriate handling of the situation and also due to inadequate number of technicians and the staff, the situation could not be controlled so far.

A large number of children have died because the required numbers of paediatric doses were not available; and also the injections were not sent from the Centre.

Sir, I would, therefore, request the Health Ministry to take up the matter very seriously and take stern action against all those officers for their lapse due to which we have lost a large number of lives. More than 15,000 people have been detected positive and are in different hospitals. I would also request the hon. Prime Minister to take this matter very seriously and grant, at least, Rs. 5 lakh per affected family so that they can be rehabilitated. I would also request the Government to send enough number of experts from Delhi to control the situation. There should be a proper co-ordination from the Centre, which would help in controlling the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Other Special Mentions will be taken up before the adjournment of the House today.

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