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Title: Need to provide medicines, supply of PDS items and ex-gratia payment to the people affected by water borne diseases in Thuamul Rampur Block of Kalahandi district, Orissa.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Okay, Sir. Now, as you have given me a chance to speak, I am raising a matter of urgent public importance which warrants Central Government's interference immediately.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada

In Thuamul Rampur Block in the district of Kalahandi, nearly about 30 tribals have died due to water-borne disease and diarrhoea ...(*Interruptions*) Ex-gratia payment should be made to the people who have died due to this epidemic....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing Mr. Athawale? What are you trying to do?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only last week Mr. Thomas had to go out. Do not forget it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : That disease is slowly spreading in the tribal belts and it is going to the districts of Koraput, Nabarangpur and a lot of people have been affected in the KBK area.

The State Government is trying its best by sending a team of doctors but still if the Central Government does not help, this epidemic is going to take the lives of hundreds of people in Thuamul Rampur Block of Kalahandi district. Therefore, I would request you, Sir, to intervene and give a direction, if possible, to the Ministry of Health to send a special team of doctors.

Another problem which has arisen there is that a lot of tribals are not getting the PDS distribution properly. They are eating mushroom roots and other things, and thereby they are getting affected and dying.

Under the PDS, mobile vans were running in those areas. I do not know why they were stopped. I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Minister for Consumer Affairs to provide five mobile vans for this district so that the public distribution to BPL and tribal people is made at their doorsteps.