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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the victims of Endosulphan in Kasargod district of Kerala and other parts of the country.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to draw the attention of the Government with regard to the miserable condition of the victims of the endosulphan in Kasargod in Kerala and some other parts of the country.

It is a very poisonous chemical pesticide which has been used in some parts of our country, especially, in Kasargod in cashew nut plantations for the last 25 years. Though in the initial stage, the very serious adverse effects were not realised, a study has proved that continuous use of endosulfan is the main reason for some serious diseases existing in this area. It affects environment, wild life, water, air and also health of the human beings. About 4500 innocent people have already died, about 10,000 people are taking medicines and approaching hospitals. The massive protest has come in Kasargod district of State of Kerala. As a result of a number of committees were appointed. They came to the conclusion that endosulfan is a serious poisonous pesticide. In the initial stage, the Government of India was not ready to admit this fact. Subsequently, the International Geneva Convention banned endosulfan globally. The Government of India had also taken the decision to ban the endosulfan due to the verdict of the Supreme Court.

I am sorry to say that these victims are still suffering. I have witnessed that many of the young children have become blind and deaf. Many young girls became victims of cancer, TB and a good number of people have developed physical deformities. I think a substantial assistance should be given to them by the Government. It cannot be done by the State Government of Kerala alone. But the State Government has requested the Central Government for a financial package of Rs.475 crore. But I am sorry to say that nothing is seen either in the budget or in the decisions of the Government. Meanwhile, the endosulfan Company with its high financial capacity is trying to defy the decisions of the Government. It is also violating the verdict of the Supreme Court. They are sending court notices to the scientists of the Calicut Medical College to rectify the reports that they have already given to the Government. But the scientists have taken a firm step and said that it is true that endosulfan is the main reason for these diseases.

In this regard, I would request the Government to take all possible steps to give relief to the victims of the endosulfan by sanctioning a special package to the State. The Government should also uphold the verdict of the Supreme Court. This highly influential Company is trying to defy the decisions of the Government and also violating the verdict of the Supreme Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members Shri P.K. Biju and Shri M.B. Rajesh are allowed to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri P. Karunakaran: