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Title: Need for an 'Emergency Fund' to assist states during unprecedented floods.

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM) :** Given the scale of destruction as a result of floods in the North East and Central Indian states, I urge the Government to urgently direct all states to overhaul flood prevention measures. This would be greatly enhanced if the Government creates an Emergency Fund to assist states in an "Unprecedented Situation" as was the case during the Chennai Floods. In addition, it is strongly recommended to increase an immediate budgetary allocation for "Flood Management Programme" to enable states to address flood, especially Coastal states like Kerala as they are prone to floods. This fund would also enable states to carry out the urgently needed maintenance of basic sanitation and sewage systems.

In the light of 'above average' monsoon that is expected this year, every effort needs to be made to prevent the tragic loss of life and damage to property due to floods.