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Title: Need to include 'lightning' in the list of natural disasters.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am bringing a very sensitive and tragic issue before the august House for a decision by the Government of India.

On April 11th, in my own eyes two young boys – one aged 20 years and another aged 26 years – died unnatural deaths and six were injured. The reason for these incidents was lightening in my district of Balasore in Odisha. In the last month of March, six people had died in Khurda which is very near to Bhubaneswar and 20 were severely injured due to lightening. A study by the Government of India in 2014 has said that in the last 35 years, out of the total deaths that have happened in the country due to natural disaster, 39 per cent of the people have died because of lightening. This is such a serious issue. But the unfortunate part is that those people who die or suffer grievous injury are not covered for relief under SDRF or NDRF.

Therefore, my submission to the Government would be to take serious cognizance of this issue and immediately declare lightening as a natural disaster and provide relief under SDRF and NDRF.