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Title: Regarding natural disaster faced by Manipur and other North Eastern States of the country.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): In January this year, a severe earthquake of 6.8 magnitude on Richter Scale rocked the Northeastern region, epicenter being at Noney in Western Manipur. Again this month, another severe earthquake of almost the same magnitude rocked region once again, epicenter being in Myanmar. Now heavy rains accompanied by the violent hailstorms and fast winds and lightening swept across the entire NE region last week causing heavy landslide.

Manipur has been witnessing severe flash floods quite a few times in a year. This time too, thousands of houses and standing crops and vegetables were damaged by the heavy rain accompanied by hailstorm that swept across the states. In almost all districts of Manipur, the violent hailstorm wreaked havoc and houses have been marooned by water. Corrugated Iron (CI) sheet -roofs of houses were extensively damaged by giant hailstones. Now, most of the affected people do not have shelter for sleeping and cooking.

It is indeed a rare coincidence that there is severe drought in some areas of the country and at the same time, there is an equally severe flood situation in some other parts of the country. I do urge upon the Union Government to immediately intervene and help the state governments of these NE regions particularly Government of Manipur, in their tasks of disaster response and rehabilitation by declaring the same as a natural calamity.