

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to Tamil Nadu, affected by cyclone 'Ockhi'

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30th November, Cyclone Ockhi had caused severe destruction in the southern coastal districts of Tamil Nadu especially Kanyakumari district. Thousands of houses were damaged, several acres of agricultural fields were inundated; paddy crops, coconut trees and plantain crops were also ruined completely. It had severely crippled normal life, affecting scores of fishermen. Even though more than 3500 fishermen had been rescued, some are still missing; and their families are inconsolable.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu immediately swung into action and allocated available resources from the State Govt. In this regard, the Chief Minister had telephonically contacted the Hon. Prime Minister and also Hon. Home Minister, and requested the Centre to allocate adequate funds for undertaking repair of power infrastructure, road network, fisheries infrastructure, among others.

Since the magnitude of the damage is humongous, it necessitates the intervention of the Centre and this requires to be declared as a 'National Disaster' and necessary financial assistance may be provided, accordingly by the Centre to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu immediately.