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Title: Regarding flood situation in Balasore and other parts of Odisha.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Thank you, Speaker Madam, for giving me the opportunity to raise this issue on the floor of the House. The situation of flood, rain, storm and lightening is extremely grave in the State of Odisha including my district of Balasore. I have just visited the place. Whatever I assessed, I am going to put forth before this House.

About 33 people have died last Saturday and Sunday in the State of Odisha due to lightening. Over one million people have been trapped in water in my district of Balasore alone and several thousand hectares of paddy field is completely inundated with water thereby destroying the crop, which is the mainstay of almost 80 per cent people of my constituency. Our hon. Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaikji has just announced a compensation of Rs.4.00 lakh each to those who have lost their lives due to lightening. In view of this grave situation in my State and more particularly in my district of Balasore, I would urge upon the Union Government for the following action:

(i) to grant of *ex gratia* payment of Rs.10 lakhs to the family of those who have been killed by the lightening;

(ii) to add 'lightening' in the list of natural calamity so that we do not have to come to Parliament repeatedly;

(iii) to initiate research so that the lightening can be predicted which is in practice in several countries across the globe; and

(iv) to compensate all the farmers who have lost their crops and livelihood in the recent floods.

Thank you, Madam.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चन्देल को श्री रवीन्द्र कुमार जेना द्वारा उठाए गए विख़य के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।