

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to declare cyclone 'Gaja' as a national tragedy.

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): On 16th of November, 2018 the cyclone Gaja crossed Tamil Nadu between Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam, with speed reaching upto 110 kmph. It uprooted many trees, damaged huts and tiled houses, crops, livestock and power lines plunging several areas into darkness throwing normal life out of gear in 4 delta districts and Kodaikanal division of Dindigul district as well as some parts of 8 other districts.

It is kindly requested that the Govt. of India term this as a National tragedy so that the people affected could benefit from the aid provided by the central government.

In spite of TN government's best efforts, 52 human lives were lost due to falling trees, collapse of houses etc., and 5 people lost their lives during restoration operations.

A total of 3,34,880 huts were damaged out of which 1,99,795 huts were fully destroyed and 1,44,085 huts were partly damaged. In addition to this, 2,20,110 tiled houses were partly damaged and 1877 tiled houses were completely damaged.

A total of 14,69,583 trees have fallen, 902 kms of rural roads and 2,104 kms of State highway roads were damaged, 2168 buildings including schools and Anganwadi buildings have been damaged, 1272 public buildings have been damaged.

A total of 1,22,063 hectares of crops were damaged of which 78,262.94 hectares were coconut farms. The coconut and banana farmers suffered extensive damage, as new plantations will take several years before they bear fruit.

1243 cows, 43 bulls, 827 calves, 12,126 goats and sheep, 2,07,246 poultry perished due to the cyclone. 151 motor boats were completely destroyed, 1066 partly damaged and 1137 vallams (country boats) were completely destroyed and 1,434 vallams were partly damaged.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the following revisions be made in the relief funds:

- (1) Rs.5,000 to each damaged hut should be revised to 1 lakh per damaged house.
- (2) Rs.18,000 per hectare of damaged coconut/ mango/ cashew farms should be revised to Rs.6,000 per tree.

For Fisheries Sector:

- (1) Rs. 5 lakh for each mechanized boat should be revised to Rs. 30 lakh per mechanized boat.
- (2) Rs.75,000 per FRM Vallam should be revised to Rs. 5 lakh per FRM Vallam
- (3) Rs.32,000 per catamaran boats should be revised to Rs. 2 lakh per catamaran boat.
- (4) Rs. 10,000 per damaged net should be revised to Rs.50,000 per damaged net.
- (5) Rs.5,000 per damaged OSM/IBE engines should be revised to Rs. 25,000 per damaged OBM/IBE engines.
- (6) Finance assistance for partly damaged mechanized boats, FRP vallam, catamaran be increased from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 7 lakh, Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 45,000 and Rs.10,000 to Rs.25,000 respectively.

It is requested that the Government of India sanction an additional allocation for Tamil Nadu to build multi-hazard resistant houses at a cost of Rs. 5 lakh per house for about 2 lakh people in both rural and urban areas. A special sanction of Rs. 6,000 crores needs to be made for reconstruction of the houses for the poor in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.

In order to overcome the recurring damages to the power sector, it is imperative to convert High Tension and Low Tension overhead lines into underground cables at least in the town areas of the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu which will cost approximately Rs. 10,000 crores.

It is requested that Rs. 1,000 crore be sanctioned under NADP/RKVVY scheme as a special case to farmers who have lost their trees/crops during the cyclone Gaja. Rs.1000 crores is required for permanent restoration of severely damaged roads. Rs. 800 crores is required for permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure in villages such as rural roads, drinking water, electric poles etc. 1,10,000 affected farmers need to be provided with milch cows or 4 goats/sheep or 50 backyard or native chicks and this would require an amount of Rs.250 crores.