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Title: Need to set up Multi-purpose cyclone centres in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Of the 7,516 km long coastline of India, close to 5,700 km is prone to cyclones and tsunamis; 68 per cent of the cultivable area is vulnerable to drought and hilly areas are at risk from landslides. The Coastal areas of Tamil Nadu are increasingly becoming vulnerable to tropical cyclones and the consequent recurrent loss of life and property. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister supervises the "National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project". To minimize vulnerability to cyclones and make people and infrastructure disaster resilient in cyclone hazard prone area in the country, Multipurpose Cyclone Centres have been established. The construction of high raised, pillared buildings to keep people safely away from flood waters, provision for first aid centre with storage of medicines and drugs, drinking water, kitchen, toilets, ambulance and storage godowns constitute the establishment of the Multipurpose Cyclone Centres.

While the Government has constructed 567 such Multipurpose Cyclone Centres in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal, none were constructed in Tamil Nadu. Out of 353 Multi-purpose Cyclone Centres to be constructed in the second phase, Tamil Nadu was again omitted. The Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu were continuously devastated by Tsunami in 2004 and cyclones Thane, Nilam, Vardah, Ockhi and now Gaja. The Union Government had not considered Tamil Nadu and it is unfortunate that not even a single Multipurpose Cyclone Centre was constructed.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to include Tamil Nadu in this scheme and take immediate action for establishment of Multipurpose Cyclone Centres in the State and take appropriate measures for prevention, mitigation, capacity-building and preparedness to combat cyclones.

