

## **Sixteenth Lok Sabha**

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Title: Regarding devastation caused by cyclone 'TITLI' in Sirkakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): On October 11, Srikakulam which is among the most backward region in South India, was affected by a very severe cyclonic storm - Titli. It inflicted colossal damage to human lives, crops, property, and public infrastructure. Losses are estimated to be upwards of Rs. 3400 crore. More than half of these losses (Rs.1800 crore) are accounted for by agriculture and horticulture. More than 40,000 hectares of long-term standing crops of Cashew, Mango, and Coconut have perished in Uddanam, a region in Srikakulam. The Government of Andhra Pradesh undertook massive relief efforts involving 15 of its Cabinet Ministers, many IAS Officers, and more than a hundred Deputy Collectors. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh personally supervised and the entire Secretariat moved to Palasa, the region where the cyclone made landfall, for seven days. Home Minister Rajnath Singh was present during the Cyclone period for laying foundation stone in Guntur and assured that 'whatever needs to be done for AP will be done.' And yet, he did not find it necessary to fly to Srikakulam for personally assessing the destruction caused by the cyclone.

It is imperative to declare this cyclone as a National Calamity. There has been tremendous response from civil society, companies, and government employees to help Srikakulam get back on its feet. The UN Secretary-General himself has expressed sadness over this disaster and assured support to the Government of India for relief efforts, but the Centre has remained unresponsive.

Central Government has failed in its responsibility to facilitate the restoration process in Srikakulam. The Centre needs to realize the enormity of the task involved in reconstruction and rehabilitation of Srikakulam.