

Regarding crop insurance

SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM (SIVAGANGA): Madam, the default position of insurance companies, when the farmers go and claim crop insurance, is to delay and deny. That must change. The way in which crop insurance is calculated, even a nuclear scientist will not be able to understand it. They take a satellite image of the block. Then they take five-to-seven-year average of the crops there. They use an algorithm to decide whether a farmer is entitled to compensation or not. The District Collector does not understand the formula, and the companies use this as an excuse to deny compensation.

The number of farmers seeking compensation is going up every year, but the amount paid to them is coming down every year. A humanistic approach must be taken and it should not be based on algorithms, satellite images and averages of seven years, which does not take ground reality into consideration.

So, the Agriculture Ministry and the Finance Ministry must intervene and make sure that compensation is given to our needy farmers in a timely manner instead of delaying it and denying it to them. Thank you very much, Madam.