

Regarding plight of areca nut growers and need for special assisted package to the farmers

SHRI B. Y. RAGHAVENDRA (SHIMOGA): Madam, I stand here to draw the attention of this august House to the plight of our *Annadata*s, our farmers, and the areca nut growers of Malnad and other parts of Karnataka.

Our distressed farmers are facing an unprecedented crisis, and I urge the Government's intervention in this regard. Especially, areca nut growers are facing problems related to yellow leaf disease and leaf spot disease due to continuous heavy rains for the last four months in our constituency.

In addition to this, I also wish to draw the Government's attention to the critical issue of the Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). In this regard, the predefined parameters in the term sheet are updated only once every three years at the Taluk level. The core concern is that many weather stations are not functional.

Therefore, I request the Ministry of Agriculture to intervene in this and ensure that compensation for 202425 is recalculated using the nearest and most climatically accurate weather station data and that the daily rainfall SMS service is reinstated.

I urge the Government to extend immediate relief and targeted measures to control the devastating yellow leaf disease and leaf spot disease. I also request the Government to explore the possibility of providing an immediate special assistance package to compensate for the losses and support our distressed farmers.

We must ensure that our excellent schemes are implemented with utmost attention so that our distressed farmers always receive the protection and support they deserve. Thank you.