

Title: Demanded the Centre to release, at least, Rs. 350 crore to provide relief to the farmers and declare Karnataka as a drought affected State without any further delay.

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, most of the districts in Karnataka are hit by severe drought due to failure of monsoon. Coastal districts and Kodagu have received some rains and all other districts of the State are facing the uphill task of fetching fodder and sowing the seeds again. In fact, the situation is so grave that the people from the affected areas have started migrating to the neighbouring States like Goa and Maharashtra.

The gravity of the situation is reflected in the fact that an all-party delegation from Karnataka is planning to meet the Centre in early August 2001. A central team has already visited the affected areas of Karnataka.

The State Government has released an amount of Rs.73 crore as a compensation for crop loss to the affected farmers. This amount is very meagre looking at the huge losses incurred by the farmers. The Centre has allocated Rs.350 crore under the Calamity Relief Fund.

I, therefore, demand the Centre to release, at least, Rs.350 crore to provide relief to the farmers and declare Karnataka as a drought affected State without any further delay.