

Title: Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Tamil Nadu for providing relief to the farmers whose crops have been affected by heavy rain in Cauvery delta area of the state - Laid.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : The Samba paddy crop, harvested and awaiting procurement as well as ripe for harvesting in the field, has been severely damaged by heavy unseasonal rains in the Cauvery delta in the first week of February 2002. Other crops have also been severely damaged. The Farmers' Federation of the three Districts of the Cauvery delta have estimated the income loss at Rs.1,000 crore affecting 8 lakh hectares of crop and 3 lakh farmer families besides many more lakhs of farm labour. On the pattern of the Central assistance extended to the State Government of Punjab in similar circumstances last year, the Union Government is urged to assist the State Government of Tamil Nadu in augmenting the compensation given to affected farmers and farm labour whose income loss averages Rs.25,000 per hectare as against compensation given so far of Rs.2,500 per hectare, and that too only to a restricted number of farmer families.