

Title: Regarding need to allot funds to overcome the drought situation in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the drought situation in Andhra Pradesh is very serious and alarming. Recently, a Central Team visited the State of Andhra Pradesh and toured the drought-affected areas. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a Memorandum requesting for the sanction of Rs. 2,373 crore as drought relief and also release of 20 lakh metric tonne of rice.

Recently, I saw in the newspapers that the Central Government has announced a drought relief package of Rs. 3,000 crore for the State of Rajasthan. We have no objection to that, but I would like to submit that it should be done in a scientific way.

Sir, the State of Andhra Pradesh has received 46 per cent less rainfall as against the normal rainfall during a year. So, according to the economic condition of a State and the prevailing financial situation, the drought relief package should be given in a scientific way. The Central Government should study the severity of the drought situation in each State and accordingly they should allot funds for drought relief. It may be for Rajasthan or Andhra Pradesh or West Bengal, but it should be done in a scientific manner. The Calamity Relief Fund is also not sufficient to give money to all the States.

Recently, thousands of Muslims have offered prayers for rains. This is the situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh. So, to prevent migration of people from Andhra Pradesh and to provide drinking water, the Government of India should immediately sanction money and release rice for the Food for Work Scheme. I appeal to you to give a direction to the Government of India to extend all the support to the Government of Andhra Pradesh without any further delay. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a small submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, you should give a notice for that. But you never give a notice. You are a senior Member and you know the rules very well.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, it is not a question of being a senior or junior. I want justice to be done to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has declared 921 *Mandals* in Andhra Pradesh as drought-prone. They have taken *mandal* as a complete unit, but they have not properly used the rice given for the Food for Work Scheme.

Sir, they have not given crop insurance also to any farmers in Andhra Pradesh, because the State Government has to give its share which they have not done. I also want that water to be released to Andhra Pradesh and we definitely want fund allocation for drought relief in Andhra Pradesh, but the Food for Work Scheme is not fairly implemented by the State Government. There are enough evidences published in newspapers that certain contractors are misusing the rice allotted for the Food for Work Scheme. It is being misused and even under the Crop Insurance Scheme, the farmers are not getting any benefit. ...(*Interruptions*)