

**Title:** Need to take suitable measures to tackle the problem of severe drought in Karnataka. -- Laid.

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (MYSORE) : The farmers in several districts of Karnataka are passing their days with great hardship as the State has been facing the drought of a severe nature for the last few years. The Central team visiting the drought affected districts are making assessment of the losses and accordingly sanctioning funds to provide them drought relief. But there is a wide variation of the losses sustained by the farmers and actual relief distributed to them. As a result of successive years of drought, the financial condition of the farmer is worsening year after year.

Unless permanent measures like diversification of cropping pattern and additional irrigation facilities along with subsidies on seeds, fertilizers and on the purchasing of agricultural implements are provided, the financial condition of the farmers will continue to be worsened.

I request the Government that the short term lending to the farmers in the drought affected areas in that State may be converted into long term loans and the loan taken by the small and marginal farmers be waived off. Adequate funding should also be made by the Central Government to the farmers to diversify the cropping pattern.