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Title: Need to undertake drought relief measures in Vellore district, Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): Sir, monsoon failure for the past three consecutive years in Vellore district, particularly in areas around Tiruppattur, Natrampalli, Vaniambadi in my constituency has led to crop failure, drinking water scarcity affecting agriculture and rural population. Even the recent rains in Tamil Nadu failed in these areas adding misery. Farmers face hardship to continue their agricultural occupation for want of further investment and input. Their demand to convert existing loans to long-term loans and Government assurances in this regard are still to be met. In the absence of a streamlined credit facility and required support for inputs like seed and manure as a special package, the drought has led to an economic disaster affecting thousands of farmers here.

I urge upon the Union Government to respond on a war-footing by providing drought relief measures to save small and marginal farmers from desperation and deprivation. Further, the Union Minister of Finance and Minister of Agriculture should give suitable instructions to the nationalised banks and agricultural agencies for providing necessary assistance and inputs.

*Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Tamil.