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Title : Problems in Agricultural Sector.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): Kerala has been experiencing the worst ever agrarian crisis. Four districts namely Wayanad, Palakkad, Kasargod and Idukki are the worst hit districts in the State. The continuous fall in the prices of agricultural produces, especially the cash crops and the increasing expenses on cultivation coupled with natural calamities put the farming sector into great jeopardy, pushing farmers into debt traps. More than 1500 farmers have already committed suicide in the State. The situation continues to be serious and deserves immediate attention and demands serious measures for helping the farmers to tide over the present crisis. The Government, therefore, should consider comprehensive relief packages at least for the above four worst hit districts in the State as has been done in the case of Vidharbha region.

Wayanad and Palakkad districts are currently covered under the NREGP and Backward Districts Grant Fund. Considering the seriousness of the situation, I urge upon the Government to consider the other two districts, that is Kasargod and Idukki also under the NREGP and Backward Districts Grant Fund.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Satheedevi will associate with her.