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Title: Need to issue instructions to the General Insurance Company to ensure early clearance of the pending Crop Insurance claims in Karnataka. – Laid.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (DHARWAD SOUTH): You are aware that the State of Karnataka has faced four years of continuous severe drought, which has forced the farmers to an acute financial position. Even then, it is surprising to note that proceeds of Crop Insurance has not been distributed to the farmers of Haveri, Shimoga and Hassan districts of Karnataka for the year 2002-2003, though they had paid the premium promptly. They are entitled for the insurance from General Insurance Company and the State Government of Karnataka whereas purposefully they are avoiding the payment for reasons unknown.

About 700 farmers of Joyisarahalli in Haveri district of Karnataka have paid premium for the year 2002-2003, but on technical ground the GIC officials are refusing to pay the Crop Insurance. The claims for Crop Insurance amounting to Rs.36 lakhs pending till date may please be released to the farmers of entire Karnataka immediately.

The plight of the farmers in our State where about 400 farmers have committed suicide because the crop failure, is not very good. As the farmers are facing an acute financial crisis they are finding it difficult even to get the seeds and the fertilizers for the next crop. It is also learnt that the Government of Karnataka has already requested Union Government for an early clearance of the claims.

I, therefore, urge the Government to take note of the above facts and to issue orders for an early clearance of the claims.