

Title: Need to provide adequate relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities in Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): Madam Chairman, Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur districts in my constituency have been facing severe drought consecutively for the last three years. Recently the Central Drought Monitoring Committee have also visited these districts and submitted their reports to the Department concerned to release funds for drought relief. But the funds have not been released so far. Further, the heavy rainfall in entire Tamil Nadu has added to the misery. The crops cultivated (through loans raised by the agriculturists) in more than 10 lakh acres have been damaged. More than 50 people have died and thousands of huts/small houses have perished due to heavy rainfall and floods. The connectivity roads in all the villages in these districts have also been damaged heavily. Epidemics like cholera have spread and proper medicines are not available in the Government hospitals.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate relief measures and supply seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to the agriculturists for cultivation in the post rain season. Special assistance to build houses under Indira Awas Yojana may also be extended to the people whose houses were destroyed in the rain.