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Title: Need to extend financial assistance to farmers distressed due to drought situation in Andhra Pradesh particularly in the Karimnagar district.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (KARIMNAGAR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House regarding the drought situation and the farmers' problems in the Karimnagar district and also all over Andhra Pradesh.

I would like to state that in 2011 Kharif season, the drought situation for Paddy is 3.64 lakh acres, cotton is 10.08 lakh acres, groundnut is 18.42 lakh acres, maize is 2.27 lakh acres, Yellow Lentils/Toor Dal is 1.86 lakh acres, amudham oil is 3.53 lakh acres . Thus this drought situated is spread in 40.46 lakh acres and such situation has dampened the life of the farmers in Andhra Pradesh. About 23 districts in Andhra Pradesh were badly affected and in Karimnagar entire 57 mandals were declared as drought hit. About Rs. 18,024 crore loss was suffered in Andhra Pradesh and in Karimnagar it was Rs. 74 crore. Due to such a situation, more than 48.6% farmers are in liability situation and many farmers have committed suicides. Appointment of Vice-Chancellors in Agriculture Universities is not taking place in Andhra Pradesh and such a situation is adding to the woes of farmers more and is also affecting the experiments in agricultural universities badly. Inadequate power supply and low-level of ground water has also added to the drought situation in Andhra Pradesh badly. Bank officials are not willing to give loans to the farmers. To face drought situations, crop insurance should be provided by bearing the 50 per cent of total value. So far, not even a single paisa was released by the Government despite having the reports and sending the Central teams to Andhra Pradesh.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, through the Chair, to kindly help the farmers with some financial grants immediately to face drought situation in Andhra Pradesh.