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Title: Need to provide assistance to the people of Puducherry and Cuddalore affected by cyclone 'Thane'.

SHRI S. ALAGIRI (CUDDALORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter of urgent public importance. On December, 30 a cyclone called *Thane* affected my district Cuddalore. In that cyclone cashew nut and jack fruit trees spanning over a land area of 50,000 acres were uprooted and more than lakhs of huts were destroyed. The State Government has announced a compensation of Rs. 3,000 for the construction of the huts and a sum of Rs. 3000 per acre of the crops. The Government of India has given a sum of Rs. 500 crore. But this is not enough for the people who have been affected. Now, the agriculturists engaged in the farming of jack fruits and cashew nuts want crop loan from the nationalized banks. But the problem here is that these crops, namely the jack fruits and the cashew nuts starts giving yield only after seven years of their being plants. So, the bankers are hesitant to give the loans because the first repayment of the loan could come only after seven years. So, I would like to request the Government to recommend to the nationalized banks for giving crop loans to the affected farmers.