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Title: Need to take immediate steps to mitigate the plight of farmers in Wayanad, Kerala.

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (WAYANAD): Wayanad is a predominantly agrarian district which at present is under the throes of a devastating agricultural and farming crisis. Many farmers have committed suicide owing to the crisis and such a volatile situation requires an urgent and long term oriented intervention by the government. The suicides of farmers, owing to farming debt, affect the entire agrarian class and natural calamities are adding to their burden and plight. The same conditions affect the general agrarian community in Wayanad and I would request the Government to take immediate steps to mitigate the plight of farmers in Wayanad by initiating measures such as waiver of interest for agriculture loans availed by small and marginal farmers, instituting a comprehensive mechanism for pro-farmer re-determining of interest rates to be applied for agricultural loans, expanding the scope of moratorium, even on agricultural loans taken from private sector banks, regular revision of minimum support price for commodities by taking into account the factor of market volatility, bringing regulations on speculative trading on basic farm produce, agricultural produce mapping and insurance based on such, strict legal action against harassment by banks on loan defaulters, Waiver policy for loans reassessed and farmers' representatives view to be heard, infusion of greater technologies to improve yield and seed quality. I would hence request the Government to constitute a panel of experts to assess the existing situation and announce a comprehensive package for Wayanad to mitigate the farmers' distress immediately.