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Title: Need to provide compensation to farmers whose crops got damaged due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government to the unseasonal and untimely rains coupled with hail storms, on 16th and 17th February, 2013, which caused heavy loss to farmers in 12 districts, across the State of Andhra Pradesh. This natural calamity has damaged standing agriculture crops in vast stretch converging nearly 1.48 lakh Hectares and another 1.04 lakh Hectares of horticulture crops in many other parts of the state, besides claiming 17 lives.

In Guntur District the loss is as follows as per the official declaration of the Collector and District Magistrate. Paddy in 2,260 Hectares, Bengal Gram in 5,077 Hectares, Green Gram in 6,260 Hectares, Maize in 3,286 Hectares, Jowar in 1,112 Hectares, Ground Nut in 1,000 Hectares, Red Gram in 229 Hectares, Tobacco in 274 Hectares.

The chilli crop on fields in Guntur District had, fungus attack/decolouring, causing a dip in its price from Rs.7000/- to 4,000/- per quintal, in one single day. Its price fell nearly by 50% after rain water seeped into the produce. Thousands of farmers in Guntur District as well as in other 11 Districts now have their hopes pinned on the Government aid to overcome the crisis.

As such I request the Honorable Minister for Agriculture through the Chair, kindly to intervene in the matter and issue instructions to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, to take up detailed survey, to assess the loss of crop on war footing basis, and to declare compensation to the farmers at least Rs. 1,00,000/- per hectare to paddy loss; Rs.50,000/- per hectare to commercial crop; Rs.30,000/- per hectare to horticulture loss; Rs.30,000/- per hectare to vegetables loss.