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Title: Need to enhance the financial assistance extended from Calamity Relief Funds (CRF).

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important matter pertaining to the sufferings of the farming community of our country.

Farming in modern days has become more cost intensive with more of technology inputs. Any form of natural calamities, which visit the State of Odisha regularly and disease or pest outbreaks inflict irreparable loss to farmers. The impact of climate change is expected to worsen the loss suffered in the farm sector, the life line of our country. Unless and until ample assistance is extended to the suffering farmers it would be impossible for them to resurrect their farm enterprise. The input assistance extended from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to the affected farmers for crop loss suffered due to natural calamities need to be enhanced suitably from the existing Rs. 6,800 and Rs. 13,500 per hectare of un-irrigated and irrigated land respectively subject to a minimum of Rs. 2,000. Similarly, the input assistance given for perennial and horticultural crops for crop loss at the rate of Rs. 18,000 per hectare subject to a minimum of Rs. 4,000 should also be enhanced suitably.

Our hon. Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik has written many letters to the Union Government to look into the matter and do the needful. So, I urge upon the Union Minister of Agriculture to suitably enhance the input assistance extended from the Calamity Relief Fund to calamity affected farmers and help the farming community.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh.