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Title: Regarding drought situation in Karnataka.

SHRI B.S.YEDIYURAPPA (SHIVAMOGGA) : Hon'ble Speaker, Madam, This year Karnataka has seen the worst drought in the last 25 years. People of about 130 taluks were badly affected by drought. Due to inadequate rainfall sufficient water is not there in Krishna basin. The Alamatti dam which has the storage capacity of 123 TMC had 102 TMC of water last year. Now only 58 TMC water is there in this dam. Last year 297 TMC water was there in all the dams in the state. But now they have 201TMC of water.

The reservoirs in the Cauvery basin such as Hemavati, Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS), Kabini and Harangi have the storage capacity of 115 TMC. Last year water storage in these reservoirs was 93 TMC. But now they have only 84 TMC of water. Last year during the same period Hemavati, Harangi, Kabini reservoirs were almost full and 43 TMC of water was released to Tamil Nadu. This year even though there is inadequate water in all these reservoirs 39 TMC of water was released to Tamil Nadu.

For the year 2015-16 targeted areas for cultivation is 111.37 lakh hectares for Kharif, Rabi and summer season in which 31.71 lakh hectares of irrigated land and 71.66 lakh hectares of rain fed land. However, till date the sowing operation took place only in 9.07 lakh hectares of irrigated land and 30.05 lakh hectares of rain fed land. In the past one month due to scanty rainfall 80% of the crops in the dry land area were destroyed and farmers were suffering a lot as they had spent huge money on seeds and fertilizers.

In many parts of the state there is no drinking water and fodder available for cattles.

During my tenure as Chief Minister of Karnataka I took steps to waive off farm loan. I urge the State Government to take similar steps and waive off farm loan disbursed by cooperative banks and also waive off the interest on farm loan disbursed by nationalized banks.

Farmers are in hapless condition as the horticulture crops including Grapes, Coconut, Pomagranite, coffee were destroyed due to drought. Moreover dry land farmers too are not being benefited from the crop insurance schemes. The farmers are living in a pathetic condition.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to give Rs.20,000 per hectare to each farmer to meet the expenditure spent on seeds, fertilizers and also give better compensation to the growers of Coffee, Grapes, Coconut and Pomogranite for crop loss. There is also need for immediate release of arrears due to the sugarcane farmers.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley Ji has announced a special package to rescue the Grapes and Pomogramite growers. Under this said package the Union Government would give 75% and the State Government was requested to contribute 25% of the total compensation. However, the Government of Karnataka is not keen to take any step in this regard. It is an injustice meted out to the people of Karnataka by the Congress Government of the state.

All these factors lead to the rise farmers suicide. There are 250 cases of suicide in the last 3-4 months. It is unfortunate that when I am raising such burning issue of severe drought on the floor of the House, my colleagues in the Congress benches are staging protest, and dharans without sensing the gravity of the situation. This attitude of the members shows their irresponsible nature and I condemn their behaviour and also their lack of concern for the burning and sensitive issues. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : कुमारी शोभा कारन्टलाजे को श्री बी.एस. येदियुरप्पा के साथ सम्बद्ध होने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।