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Title: Regarding agrarian crisis arising due to hailstorm and heavy rain in Northern Karnataka.

SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL): Respected Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to speak about the agrarian crisis arising out of the recent hailstorm and heavy rain in the Northern Karnataka region comprising of Koppal, Raichur, Kalaburgi, Yadgiri, Bidar and Bellary Districts. Untimely heavy rain and hailstorm have created havoc and spoiled the agricultural and horticultural crops severely, especially the paddy field which is affected mostly and destroyed all the fields resulting in a loss of Rs.425 crore.

Generally this region records six to seven millimetres rain during the month of April whereas this year between 8th and 16th of April this region recorded 50 to 100 millimetres of rain. That is an increase of about 1000 per cent. The severity could be gauged from the fact that 50 to 100 millimetres rain was recorded within 45 to 60 minutes. It is estimated that in these eight Districts, 64,462 hectares of agricultural and horticultural crops were damaged. Hundreds of cattle, thousands of houses and electrical equipment have been damaged due to heavy rain.

The Government of Karnataka has taken a decision to grant a relief amount of Rs.25,000 per hectare which comes to about Rs.150 crore. I, therefore, request the Government to consider this as one of the natural calamities and sanction additional relief to the affected farmers.

I also would like to inform you that the relief amount granted would go to the landlords. In many cases where farmers are not the land owners but would have invested in various activities having taken the land on lease for agricultural purposes, the farmers are put to severe hardship as the relief money goes to the landlords and not to the farmers.

Considering these facts, I earnestly request the Government to consider grant of special relief package to the farmers of these six backward Districts of Karnataka with a direction to the authorities to make sure that the original farmers are benefited and also a team of specialists from Central Government be sent there for inspection and to judge the critical situation of the affected farmers. Thank you.