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Title: Need to extend the benefits of Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) to all the farmers of Chamarajnagar district of Karnataka.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that there is a Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)- a Centrally sponsored subsidy scheme (Subsidy 25% for General and 33.33% for SC/ST) with a total financial outlay of Rs.6.00 Lakhs for a unit of 10 animals. This scheme is routed through NABARD with bank loan.

Chamarajanagar district of my Constituency is drought prone and DEDS is the best scheme under income generation for the small and marginal farmers and poor people. But presently the above scheme is open only for SC category of farmers. Farmers in General and ST category are not covered due to budgetary constraints. Chamarajanagar District has a vast population of ST category (11.76% of the total population) and most are poor, small and marginal farmers. There has been a lot of enquiries about the scheme by these beneficiaries who feel that they are being deprived of the benefits. Further, the discontinuation of the scheme has also affected the General and ST category of people.

Hence, I hereby urge the Union Government for reintroduction of the above scheme for the benefit of ST and the General Category of farmers of Chamarajanagar District.