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Title: Need to release balance amount of fund under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the farmers of Tumkur District, Karnataka affected by drought.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Union Government towards non-releasing of balance amount under State Disaster Response Fund and National Disaster Response Fund to the Tumkur District, Karnataka.

Tumkur District in Karnataka has witnessed drought for the past three years. The drought during 2013-14 has affected agricultural, horticultural and perennial plantation crops. The State Government has submitted proposal for compensation in the form of input subsidy sought under SDRF and NDRF to the tune of Rs.9313.83 lakh. But only 21 per cent of the demand made by the concerned Departments was released till now and the balance amount has not yet been released.

Tumkur District is a major coconut growing district in Karnataka and about 70 per cent of horticulture area in the district is under coconut crop, which has been affected badly due to drought. About 90 per cent of farming population of the district is being dependent on coconut and its by-products for their livelihood. Dr.Ghorak Singh Committee which was constituted to study the damage caused to the coconut crops in Tumkur District, has since submitted its report in this regard. In pursuance of the report, the rejuvenation of the crop and compensation for the affected crops should be paid to the farmers.

I urge upon the Union Government to release the balance 79 per cent of compensation by the concerned Department immediately for the benefit of the farmers of Tumkur District, Karnataka immediately.