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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to onion growers of Karnataka.

SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA (CHITRADURGA): Onion is largely grown in 13 districts of Karnataka. Onion acreage in Karnataka stands at around 1.35 lakh hectares and the production is estimated to be between 22 lakhs to 23 lakh tonnes annually. Onion growers are facing great hardship because *onion* prices in the markets of Karnataka and the country have touched to a very low level of Rupees 50 to Rupees 100 per quintal. There are incidents of protests from onion growers in the State of Karnataka. The price of onion in key markets such as Hubballi, Gadag, Davangere, Ranebennur and Raichur has also drastically come down. In such a situation the Government of Karnataka has come to the rescue of onion growers and fixed the procurement price at Rs. 624 per quintal, However, it is difficult for the State Government to extend more benefits, because of its limited financial resources and that too at the time of drought in more than 140 Taluks in the State.

So, I would urge upon the Union Government to come forward to extend financial assistance to the onion growers and save them from this crisis of onion price fluctuation.