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Title: Need to set up fodder banks in all the villages in the country.

SHRI B. N. CHANDRAPPA(CHITRADURGA): I would like to raise a very important Issue regarding shortage of fodder for livestock population in our country.

Even though our country is ranked first in livestock population, the availability of fodder is very inadequate in the country, particularly in rain-fed areas. As per some estimates, about 55% of the total net sown area is rain fed. About two third of the total livestock depend on the rain fed area for fodder. Livestock sector has created a significant impact on generating employment and poverty alleviation in the country. We are all well aware of the fact that Animal Husbandry is playing a significant role in ensuring the livelihood security of your farmers particularly for the small and marginal farmers. various studies in drought prone states have shown that incidents of farmers committing suicides is very high where the families confined only to rain fed agriculture, whereas families which depend on livestock as the additional occupation are able to cope with the stress during the drought.

As per some reports, the availability of the fodder is 69 million tonnes. The requirement of the fodder is 137 million tonnes. So the demand and supply gap is very high. it is very difficult for dry land farmers to supply fodder during the lean period. Severe fodder shortage pushes farmers into financial crisis as the small and marginal farmers cannot buy the fodder due to high prices in the market.

Hence I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to set up fodder banks in all the villages and help farmers to save their livestock.