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Title: Need to allocate adequate funds to State Governments for restoration of water bodies.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): The entire country is well aware of the drought situation prevailing in the State of Tamil Nadu. To mitigate the sufferings of farmers, we have asked a sum of Rs.39,565 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund. The amount released by the Central Government is very meagre. Due to severe drought situation in Tamil Nadu, all water bodies and tanks are drying and are having very limited water storage. To handle the drought situation and safeguard the agricultural activities in future in the State, the Government of Tamil Nadu is reviving the Kudimaramath scheme, an ancient system and a traditional practice of people's participation in management of water resources. This practice helps to increase the capacity of traditional water bodies by desilting, and also helps in strengthening of bunds, repairing of sluices and masonry structures, etc., and thereby reviving groundwater also. This will go a long way in drought proofing the State. Therefore, the Government of India should provide financial assistance to supplement the State Government's funding which would help restore more traditional water bodies in Tamil Nadu.

I urge the Central Government to release a sum of Rs.39,565 crore to mitigate the sufferings of farmers through National Disaster Response Fund. Thank you, Madam

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sankar Prasad Datta.