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Title: Regarding compensation to farmers of Andhra Pradesh affected by cyclone 'Pethai' - Laid

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): It is only the third time in the century old history of Andhra Pradesh that a cyclone of this magnitude hit the State in the month of December. Cyclone Pethai has devastated 7 coastal districts (136 Mandals) and my district, Guntur, has also suffered very badly.

'Pethai' in Guntur has destroyed standing agriculture crop of paddy, groundnut, tobacco, chilli, etc., and horticulture crop in as many as one lakh acres, out of nearly 4 lakh acres, in Baatla. Tenali, Karlapalem, Pitlalavani Palem and other Mandals of district. It means, 1/4th of destruction took place in Guntur district alone. Paddy which was cut and ready for transportation in more than 25,000 acres has been totally destroyed. Apart from this, four farmers have died on knowing that they would get nothing from what they have sown. Initial estimates put the loss to the tune of Rs. 450 crores.

There is no doubt that Government of Andhra Pradesh has limited the damage through Real Time Governance, but nature has shown its fury and taken its toll.

In view of the above, I request the Government of India with folded hands to first direct the FCI to purchase paddy from farmers at MSP without any further delay. Secondly, send Inter-Ministerial Central team immediately to assess the damage in Guntur and other districts of

AP and pay 50% of total loss as interim compensation and waive farm loans taken by farmers, including tenant farmers. Thirdly, pay Rs. 500 per day as subsistence allowance to farmers till they recover from this loss.