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Title: Need to provide special agricultural package to farmers in Palakad, Kerala.

SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me a chance.

Respected Sir, almost 40 per cent demand of rice of Kerala is met by the district of Palakkad as this district is having more than 65,000 hectares of agricultural land cultivating mainly rice. Thus, this is known as rice bowl of Kerala. 80 per cent of cultivators are small holding farmers and there are more than three lakh people who depend upon this farming activity in Palakkad.

However, due to the floods of last year, many thousand hectares of agricultural land have been damaged and became uncultivable. Therefore, the cultivation has come down drastically. The farmers who took loans were not able to repay it. The agricultural labourers have become jobless, creating social imbalance there.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to provide a special agricultural package for the farmers of Palakkad district urgently. Thank you, Sir.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष:** सुश्री राम्या हरिदास को श्री वी.के. श्रीकंदन द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।