

Demand to look into the issue of farmers and the drought situation in the state of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Central Government the issue of farmers and the drought situation in the State of Andhra Pradesh. As expected, the drought came because there was 25 per cent less rainfall in the Kharif Season. It is not just the natural side of the calamity but this is also a manmade calamity. It is because of the inefficiency, incapability, and irresponsibility of the State Government which has not looked after the situation of the farmers.

Sir, regarding drought, if you look at the season that has just happened, the State Government was supposed to complete a lot of projects in the last four and a half years but not a single project has been completed. Also, the canal system has not been properly maintained. If you go into the State, you cannot even find any canal system right now. The canals are completely covered with silt and greenery. So, in this situation, farmers have not sown in 25 lakh acres of land because of the inability of the State Government.

Secondly, whenever there was drought during the former Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's time, he used to use technology like sprinklers, drip irrigation, and also rain guns to wet the crops in that critical time. If the present Government had used these kinds of systems, they could have saved the crops. But, none of these kinds of systems have been utilised by the State Government. One of the important points is that no report has been prepared with respect to the drought situation. Even though more than 50 per cent of the area in the State including 650 Mandals has been affected by drought only 100 Mandals have been put in the list of drought affected areas. I know this fact because my constituency Ichchapuram has received 60 per cent less rainfall. Areas like Sompeta, Palasa, Vajrapu Kotturu, and Kaviti have been affected by drought but they are not listed in the drought affected areas list. If this is the kind of attitude, then the farmers would not get any input subsidy; they would not get any insurance; and they would not get any incentive for the next Rabi Crop. The situation is so bad that the State Government is now telling the farmers: "Do not even sow any Rabi crop." If this is the situation, how is the farmer going to come out of this crisis? On top of this,

some farmers are fortunate enough to save their crops but, now, the Gods have been angered again and they have been affected by Michaung Cyclone. Whatever little crop is ready for harvest, it has been submerged and damaged. Whatever crop was harvested, even that has been damaged because of lack of storage.

So, I request the Central Government to send proper teams which can make good assessment of the loss of the farmers and then provide assistance of Rs. 5000 crore for the State of Andhra Pradesh immediately.

Thank you, Sir.