

Issue related to Mango and Cashew farmers of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg in the Konkan region

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise one very important issue related to mango and cashew farmers of my constituency Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg in the Konkan region. This is a very serious issue and through you, I want to invite the Central Government's attention towards it.

Sir, my Konkan region has been witnessing different types of natural calamities for the last few years. Last year it was very critical and this year is also disappointing. Due to climate change and unseasonal rains, the world famous Devgad alphonso mango and the cashew crops have been adversely affected. The farmers are totally dependent on these cash crops and it is their only source of earning. The fruit growers spend lacs of rupees on the horticulture as well as for crop insurance and if they do not get any income throughout the year, they land in the trap of debts. Government should provide financial relief to these farmers. Sir, these mango growing farmers are on hunger strike and they are pursuing the State and Central Governments for fulfillment of their demands. They are constantly requesting the Central and State Governments to provide help and assistance, but nobody is listening to them. They are deprived of any help even after facing acute natural calamities.

Sir, the production of mango and cashew is decreasing every year and it was around only 15% last year. This year also, untimely and extreme rainfall badly affected the blossom of mango trees and hence the mango production is likely to touch a new low of only 12 per cent. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the insurance companies are not providing adequate insurance benefits even after paying insurance premiums. The mango growers are demanding a compensation of Rs.15000 per tree from the Government. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra had given positive reply to them but they have not received any compensation yet. Lastly, Sir, I would request the Union Government to provide Rs.15000 per tree to these needy and distressed farmers.

Thank you.

