

Title: Need to provide relief to the drought affected areas of Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Hon. Speaker Sir, Tamil Nadu is reeling under severe drought conditions and is in the grip of a severe drought. The failure of two successive monsoons has added to the woes of both the farmers for their irrigation needs and the common people for their drinking water need. Agriculture is worst hit and water supply for daily use has been affected. In Tamil Nadu, at least twenty farmers in the Cauvery Delta region have met with suicidal death due to nil or negligible water flow in river Cauvery. Monsoon failure and perished crops have driven them to their wits' end. They have put an end to themselves due to debt burden resulting in hunger and utter poverty. In Madurai, that is, in my constituency, also a farmer has ended his life committing suicide due to severe problems in carrying out his cultivation and occupation. Drinking water problem has become acute. Agricultural activity has come to a grinding halt in many places due to water scarcity that has deprived them of irrigation facilities. In Madurai district, cultivation has been taken up in merely 30,000 acres of land out of 1.50 lakh acres of land. Crops have withered away due to paucity of water. A central team visited Tamil Nadu to review the drought situation and its serious impact. As yet there is no appropriate action based on their report. People run from pillar to post. They are driven to all that they can to get rain and water. They pray to appease gods. To propitiate rain god they conduct wedding ceremonies to donkeys. They spare not even superstitions to ensure rain to carry on their lives which is hard hit now. They do not get any help from any source. Even Tamil Nadu Government has resorted to a delayed measure of declaring all the 28 districts other than Chennai as drought hit. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to provide timely relief measure by way of releasing adequate funds and enough of food grains. It is incumbent on the Centre to come to the rescue of farmers and common people who go without water to save their lives and livelihood. I hope other hon. colleagues from Tamil Nadu will also highlight this vexing issue of water scarcity that affect the agricultural community and the common people both in urban and rural areas.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): Sir, I wish to associate myself with the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Sir, I wish to associate myself with the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, Shri V. Vetriselvan, Shri A.K.S. Vijayan, Shri Adhi Shankar and Shri A. Krishnaswamy associate themselves with Shri P. Mohan on this issue.

Shri Mohan, please remember that when you want to speak in any language other than English or Hindi, you have to give advance notice. I have permitted you today.

SHRI P. MOHAN : I have given advance notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

श्री शंकर प्रसाद जायसवाल (वाराणसी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रयाग में गंगा का जल प्रदूषित हो रहा है। वंदे! (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या आपने नोटिस दिया है?

श्री शंकर प्रसाद जायसवाल : जी हाँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : फिर आप रुकिये। आपका नंबर आएगा।

...*(व्यवधान)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please cooperate. We can take up all the notices provided you cooperate.

...*(व्यवधान)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री कीर्ति आज़ाद, एक नोटिस क्रिकेट पर भी आ रहा है।