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Title: Need to release additional funds and foodgrains to the Government of Karnataka to meet the severe drought situation in the State- Laid.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA) : The State Government of Karnataka has urged the Central Government for an additional 5.85 lakh tonnes of foodgrains and Rs.300 crore in cash from the Centre for undertaking drought relief works. The State Government have already made a request to the Centre in this regard. The drought crisis in the State is cause for concern and the additional requirement is necessary until May end.

Sir, out of 3 lakh tonnes, the Centre has released 1.65 lakh tonnes to the State and the State Government has also submitted a request to release the remaining 1.35 lakh tonnes.

The State Government has presented the Centre the true picture of the prevailing situation in the State and sought additional requirement of foodgrains and cash. The drought relief works have gained momentum in the affected districts. Fodder and drinking water requirements can be taken care of, if the Centre releases the cash component of Rs.300 crore.

Sir, keeping in view of the situation, I urge the Centre to kindly released the fund and aid as required by the State Government so that drought measures are fully implemented to help the drought affected people.