

Title: Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing relief to the coconut farmers affected by severe cyclone in Srikakulam district.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Madam Chairman, I would like to bring to the notice of the Union Government the losses caused due to a severe cyclone on 17th/18th October, 1999 in my parliamentary constituency, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh. The main damage was caused to coconut plantations in six Revenue *Mandals*. An extent of 11,477 hectares of coconut plantations was damaged. The particulars of other damages were already submitted by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the Prime minister on 21.10.1999.

The individual farmer-wise damages to coconut plantations were assessed. As per the assessment, 4.83 lakh coconut plants were fully damaged and 1.74 lakh coconut plants were partially damaged. A proposal was submitted to Chairman, Coconut Development Board for sanction of Rs.10.53 crore to Andhra Pradesh for providing relief to the farmers. I, therefore, request the Government to kindly advise the Coconut Development Board for releasing an amount of Rs.10.53 crore immediately.

In this connection, I also request the Government, through you, Madam Chairman, to advise the Coconut Development Board for sanctioning assistance for taking up fresh coconut plantations in an area of 6,000 hectares in Srikakulam district.

I shall be grateful for an early action in this matter as the farmers are waiting for the assistance for the past six months.

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