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Title: Need to release more funds to the Government of Karnataka for providing relief to the people affected by drought in the State- Laid.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (TUMKUR): Karnataka is reeling under severe drought due to failure of monsoon last season. More than 120 talukas across the State have been declared drought affected. Lakes, ponds and wells have dried up causing acute shortage of drinking water for human beings and also for the livestock. Further fodder scarcity has assumed severe proportions thus affecting the health of livestock.

The State had sought calamity relief from the Centre and also allocation of 2.00 lakh MT of foodgrains to implement employment generation schemes under SGRY Food-for-work programme. Out of this more than 75% of the allocated foodgrains has already been disbursed among the rural poor. There is a delay on the part of FCI in movement of balance quantity of foodgrains and the State has requested the Centre to extend the time of delivery by 15 days to enable the State to lift the quantities.

As inter-ministerial team from the Centre which toured the State is convinced of the severity of the drought. Myself and my colleagues in Parliament, from the State of Karnataka, have submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to rush balance funds to enable the State to continue relief operations.