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Title: Need to provide relief to the farmers of Punjab whose crops have been affected due to natural calamity.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA (JALANDHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Indian farmers are affected by natural calamities every now and then. Either the crops are washed away by floods or they are damaged due to drought resulting in very less yield or no yield at all.

A recent survey conducted in Punjab shows that the production of wheat has come down by 10 million metric tonnes owing to natural calamities which amounts to a loss of Rs.640 crore to the farmers. It is quite evident from the fact that reduced yields certainly affect the profit margin of the small farmers who cannot afford to tackle the problem created by such calamities. Such farmers are, in turn, debt-ridden and are unable to survive.

Keeping in view the above problem, the Central Government should give special grant to the Punjab Government for distribution among the farmers. Apart from this grant of Rs.640 crore, the special concessions such as seeds, fertilisers at subsidised rates, and loans to the farmers in the cooperatives and others should be at par with the industries. This is a serious problem and this loss of Rs.640 crore which has occurred to the farmers because of heavy rains in winter should also be given. I would request the Government to please grant Rs.640 crore to Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are aware that it has been decided and announced in the House that 15 hon. Members will be allowed and they will be informed. After that, if there is any time left, I will give opportunity to others. So please follow that. It is a decision taken by the House[\[r8\]](#).