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Title: Need to provide immediate Central assistance to the Government of Karnataka for tackling severe drought situation in the State.

SHRIA. VENKATESH NAIK (RAICHUR): The State Government of Karnataka had submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance for drought. The State is facing its fourth consecutive year of severe drought. There is no drinking water in many districts of the State particularly in the northern districts. If this is the condition in the month of April, Mr. Speaker Sir, you can imagine the entire situation in the coming months of June and July. Fodder is not available and agricultural labourers have already migrated to the neighbouring State of Andhra Pradesh.

The State had sought Rs. 1147.71 crore and 4.53 metric tonnes of foodgrains for providing relief to the drought affected people. Centre had also deputed a study team. Ministry of Agriculture has recommended for sanction of Rs. 1.14 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains and Rs. 83 crore under NCCF. Home Minister has informed that Rs. 49.14 crore will be released from NCCF after adjusting Rs. 34.53 crore available under CRF so far, 1.14 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains and Rs. 9 crore have been released. This meagre amount has created lot of problems to the people of Karnataka.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to release at least Rs. 100 crores immediately to tackle the severe drought situation and to save the suffering people of Karnataka.