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Title: Need to take suitable measures for providing relief to the drought affected people of Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu. – Laid

DR. C. KRISHNAN (POLLACHI): I am speaking on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kalagam headed by Tamils leader, Thiru Vaiko.

Sir, my Constituency of Pollachi was earlier rich with coconut trees but now due to failure of monsoon and resultant drought condition, coconut trees are decaying.

During 2002, I raised this issue here and a token compensation of Rs. 250/- per decayed tree was given to the farmers. Now, my request is that further assessment of the falling dry and dead coconut trees should be done and compensation per tree may be given at the enhanced rate of Rs. 1000/- per dead tree.

Further, drinking water is a major problem and people are buying drinking water for the past three years. Worst of it is the delay to release the water from some of the dams even when there is sufficient water; to save the livestock and for drinking purposes for human beings.

My party leader, Shri Vaiko is on Padayatra from Trunelveli to Chennai with 3000 volunteers meeting the people to impress upon them the necessity for linking of the flood prone rivers of the South with those of the drought prone areas, connecting the rivers by newly formed canals. Further, I request the Government to waive the interest on loans taken by the people from Cooperatives and Banks in view of the drought and also ensure that fresh loans are made available to farmers without any constraints.