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Title : Need to include more districts in Tamil Nadu under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): Sir, Apart from providing job to rural poor, building up rural infrastructure, the Union Government is ahead with the National Rural Employment guarantee Scheme. In addition to that, the Government is learnt to have identified 60 districts in four States to go in for a further agricultural development scheme. At this juncture, I would like to impress upon the Union government and the Ministry of Agriculture, in particular, this include a good number of districts in Tamilnadu also for implementing this pilot project which well ensure streamlined farm credit flow and crop insurance schemes.

I also urge upon the Agriculture Ministry to make a Panchayat as a single unit to decide or declare natural disaster hit area for insurance claim purposes. For instance, Nagapattaniam and Tiruvarur in my Constituency along with certain other taluks in Thanjuvur and Southarcot districts have been worst hit by continuous drought conditions and unprecedented Tsunami in addition to non-availability of traditional irrigation of water from river Cauvery due to dispute in water sharing with Karnataka. Considering the fact that people in villages there were forced to eat even field rats for food due to famine conditions and also the fact that about 23 starvation deaths were there in my constituency, I urge upon both the Agriculture Ministry and the Rural Development Ministry to take up this pilot scheme in Cauvery delta region to begin with in Tamilnadu before taking the benefit to many other drought prone districts in Tamilnadu.