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Title : Regarding drought situation prevailing in Tumkur Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (TUMKUR): Mr. Chairman Sir, the flood situation is worsening day by day. States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh are the worst affected. Amidst these flood havocs there are some areas which are reeling under severe drought situation. Tumkur is one of such places which is very badly affected by drought. There is no drinking water. There is no fodder for cattle. People are leaving the constituency in search of jobs. Shira, Tumkur, Chikkanayakana hally and their surrounding areas are severely hit by the recent drought as there is no rain for the last six months.

Centre has released Rs. 3750 crores for Maharashtra. It has also announced packages for some other states. But, so far it has not become clear about the package for Karnataka especially for the drought hit area of Tumkur. If the situation is allowed to continue like this the farmers will continue to suffer and the number of suicides among farmers will also increase.

The coconut trees and arecanut trees are falling one after another. Sowing of Ragi, the main crop of Tumkur has not taken place so far. This pathetic situation has resulted in reducing the production of all food grains like jowar, beans, maize etc.

None of the agriculturists in my constituency has any Crop Insurance. The State Government has taken note of this situation in Tumkur. But, unfortunately it has no funds. Hence they have requested the Centre to come forward and provide sufficient funds for relief measures. Therefore, sir, through you I request the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Agricultural Minister to allocate at least ten crores to tackle the drought situation in Tumkur constituency Karnataka. Sir, I thank you and with these words I conclude my speech.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.