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Title: Waiving of interest on loan for the farmers.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (BELLARY): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram to the problems faced by the farmers, particularly of my constituency Bellary and Bellary district.

Many of us call farmers as the backbone of our country and *annadata*, the food-feeder. But the farmers are in a big trouble in Bellary constituency and they are committing suicides. The farmers have been facing severe drought for five years. This year also, Bellary district is announced as drought prone area by the State Government. The situation of farmers is very serious. Nearly 50 farmers have committed suicides in Bellary district and nearly 700 farmers have committed suicides throughout Karnataka.

The Union Government has to come forward on a war-footing basis to help the farmers of my Bellary district and constituency. Therefore, I demand from the Union Government to waive off the loan, along with interest, borrowed by the farmers of Bellary district from the nationalised banks and co-operative banks.