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Title: Need to implement Agricultural package for Kuttanad in Kerala to meet the agrarian crisis in the region.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention a very important matter of concern of the farmers of my district and also Kuttanad. When the Government announced 31 districts as the Distress-prone Districts in the country, two Districts in my State – one is Alappuzha and the other one is Idukki – have been left behind. Later on, the Government of India has appointed a Committee headed by a renowned agricultural scientist, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to study on the agrarian crisis and ecological security of the wetland system of Kuttanad, Alappuzha District. The Committee has submitted its Report and the State Government of Kerala has submitted a detailed project report, as per the direction from the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India but the final decision on that detailed project report has not yet been taken. Sir, it was, with great expectation and hope, the people of Kuttanad welcomed the project but now the people are distressed and despondent as no steps have been taken by the Government of India. Sir, it is learnt that the Planning Commission has cleared the proposal and it is awaiting the Cabinet note.

So, I would urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to sanction and implement the project so that the agrarian crisis in that region, that is, the region of Kuttanad, could be met out. Thank you.