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Title: Need to extend Prime Minister's Food Security Scheme to Kuttanad in Kerala.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, Kuttanad is known as the rice bowl of Kerala. The rice productivity rate in this region is much higher than the national average. Kuttanad is spread over parts of three districts *i.e.*, Alappuzha, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta. Kuttanad is one of the areas identified as being badly affected by the agrarian crisis. The recurring natural calamities also added to the problems of the farmers. The parameters set for the inclusion in the Prime Minister's Food Security Scheme would deny this most important rice producing area of the State the benefits of this Scheme. Hence, the Government should consider the entire Kuttanad area as an agricultural district comprising above 70,000 hectares as a special case so that the benefits under the Scheme are extended to the farmers of this area too.

I urge upon the Government to consider the request.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman – not present.

Shrimati Jayaprada.