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Title: Regarding damage to fruit crops due to snowfall and hailstorm in Himachal Pradesh.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : This is an unprecedented situation, very rare that such a hostile condition is there for fruit growers and farmers. As you know, Himachal Pradesh is popularly known as the 'Apple State of India' and is poised to emerge as the fruit bowl of India in the near future. But due to this unprecedented situation, the fruit growers and farmers are worried over the situation and seek Central help.

Though the official figures from the State Government are yet to come, but the estimated loss is of Rs. 800 crore which is due to this recent hailstorm. As the reports said, the hailstorm had played havoc with the fruit growers mainly of apple, plum, apricot, peach and pears and even wheat and rabi crops.

Through you, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to send a Central team to the affected areas where the losses had been incurred and immediately some relief should be provided to the affected fruit growers and farmers.

Sir, through you I would appeal to the Central Government that the Centre should provide compensation to the affected fruit growers and farmers of Himachal Pradesh. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhusudan Mistry to speak. I think this is about your constituency.

...(Interruptions)