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Title : Need to sanction a special financial package for the groundnut growers especially for Anantapur district of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh who lost their produce due to deficient rain.

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY (ANANTAPUR): Groundnut is grown in many parts of the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh especially in Anantapur district. For the past ten years, due to severe drought in the districts, the groundnut farmers are suffering from heavy losses due to no growth of the groundnut. In the Kharif season this year, they have sown groundnut in large areas but due to drought condition, all the investment was lost. In the four districts of Rayalaseema, groundnut is generally grown in more than 35 lakh acres of land but due to drought this year it was reduced to 23 lakh acres only. In Anantapur district the entire farmlands have become dry. Anantapur district used to be number one district in the growth of groundnut in the State. The groundnut production is generally 580 kgs. per hectare, but this year, in Anantapur district, it is a very meagre figure of just 2.5 kg per hectare.

In Rayalaseema, especially in Anantapur district, the farmers have lost all their investments due to sowing of groundnut and the crops failed because there was no rainfall in this Kharif season. I would request the Government to come to the rescue of the groundnut farmers in Andhra Pradesh, where the losses are very heavy, and consider sanctioning a special financial package to them. This would mitigate their losses to some extent and prepare them for the next sowing season.