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Title : Need to release funds to address the problems of farmers of Andhra Pradesh growing oil palm.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Andhra Pradesh is the largest Oil Palm growing state in the country. In the 9th and 10th Plan periods, an area of 44,242 hectares was covered. In the first two years of 11th Plan already 29,125 hectares was covered. It shows the tremendous response from the farmers for taking up the oil palm crop, which is mainly because of the encouragement given by the Government.

As India is not self-sufficient in oil seeds production and importing 4.2 million tons of edible oil worth more than Rs. 10,000 crore and thus consuming the precious foreign exchange. To avoid imports, our nation has to grow more oilseed crops.

This year Andhra Pradesh Government has prepared a detailed action plan to cover 72,416 more hectares with oil palm with an estimated outlay of Rs. 51.38 crore and sent to Technology Mission on Oil Palm (TMOP) for sanction of Union Government share of 75% which is equal to Rs. 38.54 crore.

But then Central Government sanctioned only Rs. 12 crore which is not at all sufficient to even provide cultivation assistance to the last 3 years plantations. In such case, not even a single acre of plantation can be taken up under Area Expansion Programme during 2009-10. This has created severe unrest among the farming community as they are in a fix, and has caused Rs. 30 crores loss to the companies who have set up plants to process the oil palm fruit.

To tide over the situation, I request, through you Madam, the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister to sanction urgently Rs. 38.54 crore to Andhra Pradesh as per the original Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) Action Plan 2009-10.