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Title: Need to expedite release of grants for payment of incentives to seed growers of Karnataka under National Food Security Mission.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Madam, you are aware that the Government of India has introduced the incentive to the seed growers for growing certified seeds of the pulses with effect from 2008-09 under the component of National Food Security Mission. Accordingly, farmers from all districts in Karnataka have also been participating in the scheme by growing the certified seeds and necessary incentives have been paid to them through Karnataka State Seeds Corporation till 2010-11. But unfortunately, the seed growing farmers from six districts have not yet received their incentives. Dharwad district, which is part of my constituency, is one among them. The State Agricultural Management Agency, Karnataka, a nodal body in this regard, has been corresponding with the Government of India and it has been requesting to release the additional pending grant of just Rs.250 lakh. It is for six districts. But, till date, no fund has been released. Poor farmers who had invested in growing the seeds, believing the Government of India and the Food Mission, are now suffering. I would request your kind intervention and through you, Madam, I would request Shri Sharad Pawar ji to release the funds immediately. In the Karnataka State, 19 talukas out of 176 talukas and 21 districts are suffering from drought. Farmers are already suffering. Recently a Central Team has visited and assessed the situation. In this context I urge the Government of India and the hon. Minister to intervene and release the funds; and also the Team which has visited as far as the drought is concerned, they should expedite and release the funds to the Karnataka Government.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Shivkumar Udasi is allowed to associate with Shri Prahlad Joshi's views.