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Title: Need to undertake necessary relief measures and provide adequate compensation to farmers whose crops have been damaged due to severe onslaught of cyclone 'Thane' in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN (KANCHEEPURAM): In December, 2011 Cyclone Thane's wind speed of 140 kms per hour had killed 35 people and damaged crops, houses and public properties in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The main affected areas are Villupuram, Cuddalore, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram districts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Several huts and small houses collapsed like pack of cards, main arterial roads were damaged and the total destruction of crops like sugarcane, paddy, and cashew nuts and other vegetable crops.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has sanctioned an interim relief fund of Rs. 5000 crore to Tamil Nadu and Rs. 125 crore to Puducherry to augment relief operations being undertaken by the respective State Governments.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister has visited Puducherry, Cuddalore and other areas affected by Cyclone Thane and assured all Central Government help to the affected people. The extensive damage was not only to paddy fields but also coconuts, bananas, casuarinas, sugarcane, cashew plantations. Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment & Forests has announced that the Ministry shall provide 15 lakh seeds/seedlings of casuarinas to farmers in Villupuram, Cuddalore and Puducherry.

The Government should make a compensation of Rs. 20,000 per acre for paddy, Rs. 25,000 per acre for sugarcane and Rs. 30,000 per acre for cashew, Rs. 25,000 per acre for groundnut and Rs. 12,000 per acre for pulses as relief to the farmers who were already burdened with high input cost, higher interest and defaulted loan repayment.