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Title: Need to allocate fund for drought relief in State of Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thank you, Chairman Sir, for giving me this opportunity to raise urgent and important matter in this House.

I would like to raise a very important matter affecting my State Kerala. Every year, during summer, drought like situation arises in Kerala even though it receives sufficient rain. Due to the drought like situation, some parts of the State, particularly, Kollam, Central Travancore, Alappuzha and Kottayam faced acute water shortage. Water is also not available for irrigation purposes. Kuttanad region, which is known as the rice bowl of Kerala, is worst affected. Thus, water is in acute shortage both for human consumption and for irrigation.

The State Government of Kerala, with their limited resources, have been providing drinking water by engaging water tankers and lorries but the demand of drinking water is ever rising and these measures are not sufficient to meet the demands.

In these circumstances, I demand from the Government of India to announce a special assistance to the State of Kerala for providing drinking water, renovation of ponds, canals, tanks and for water harvesting. So that steps on war footing can be taken by the Government of Kerala. Local Panchayats, municipalities and corporations are not able to provide drinking water because of the shortage of funds.

At this stage, the Government of India should come forward and announce special assistance for Kerala; and to provide drinking water to the people of Kerala.