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Title: Need to release funds to the Government of Karnataka to undertake relief measures in drought hit parts of the State.

SHRI R. DHYUVANARAYANA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): I would like to draw the attention of the august House regarding the need to release funds/grants to take up relief works in Karnataka particularly in my Chamarajanagar Parliamentary Constituency.

It is evident that the distress situation is looming in 123 Taluks of Karnataka due to severe drought in almost all the parts. The rural people are facing hardships in areas reeling under the severe drought. The farmers were also put to hardships due to withering crops, dried up borewells and shortage of fodder to livestock. Recently, a team visited the drought affected villages throughout the State to take the stock of the situation. They had also submitted a report to the Chief Minister of Karnataka to take up the urgent steps to supply drinking water, protection and supply of fodder to livestock. The Karnataka Government sought Rs.2605.99 crores assistance from the Government of India to tackle the drought in the State for the year 2011-12. But the Central team visited the State and assured assistance of Rs.296.00 crores to be given. The amount released from the Government of India to Karnataka to take up relief work is very meagre. The State Government of Karnataka has released Rs. 5 crore to Chamarjanagar district for taking up drought relief works. A total of Rs. 7.5 crore has been available for tackling drought.

Hence, I would like to urge the Government of India to take immediate steps to release the requisite funds by relaxing the existing rules to tackle the drought situation effectively in the entire Karnataka State without any further delay.