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Title: Need to address the problems being faced by tenant farmers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the dire need to take steps for the overall interests of the tenant farmers not only in Andhra Pradesh but all over the country.

The House is well aware that even though the Gram Sabha approves the holdings of the farmers' lands belonging to tenant farmers, the banks are rejecting their applications in sanctioning the loans for unknown reasons. Banks are failing to recognize the real tenant farmers and are also insisting for documents transacted between the land owners and the tenant farmers to avail the loan. Already, the lack of land reform in Andhra Pradesh at the gram sabha level makes the plight of tenant farmers who account for a third of the farmers in the State worse. Tenancy farming has grown and there are more than 40 lakh such farmers across the State. Most of them are debt ridden. The few rights that they enjoy are inadequate. They account for a large number of farm suicides in the State and drought is also adding to their woes. Even when compensation is paid out for crop losses, the same is grabbed by the owner whose land the tenant has leased for farming. Getting loans from banks is a tiring and cumbersome process. Tenant farmers have little security of tenure. The commissions set up for this purpose have made major observations and recommendations relating to this group earlier. In practice, the Government has done nothing about them. The actual loan figures announced by the Govt. of A.P. are not matching with the loan figures given by each bank during the last four years.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Union Ministers for Agriculture & Finance to kindly intervene in the matter and initiate necessary steps to overcome the problems being faced by the tenant farmers at the field level not only in A.P. but all over the country in the coming kharif and rabi seasons by preparing a comprehensive policy and amending the existing laws related to agriculture and banks at every stage.