

Title : Need to release the share of central funds for payment to farmers whose crops have been damaged due to drought in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY (ANANTAPUR): Sir, the State of Andhra Pradesh has faced severe drought last year, 2008, in kharif season and a large number of farmers have suffered losses. The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited, after taking all facts into account, had approved the first instalment of claims of Andhra Pradesh amounting to Rs. 801 crores for kharif season of 2008. Out of this, the share of the Government of India is Rs. 356 crore. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has released its share and the Government of India has to release its share of the total amount for payment of AICI.

I understand that the funds allocated by the Ministry of Finance for this purpose for the current year is only Rs. 640 crore and it is insufficient to meet this demand as the total amount payable by AICI works out to more than Rs. 3,200 crore and the share of the Central Government works out to approximately Rs. 1,500 crore. In this connection, I submit that the farmers have suffered great losses and are looking forward to the receipt of this amount from the AICI which would mitigate their grievances to some extent. The matter pertains to 2008 and the payment is already delayed.

I would request the Government of India to take immediate steps to obtain additional funds from the Ministry of Finance and release the share of the Government of India so that the payments could be made by the AICI to the farmers who suffered losses.

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