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Title: Regarding the plight of Tobacco farmers in the country.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue regarding delayed financial assistance to Karnataka State affected by drought and floods.

Karnataka State is severely affected by drought and floods. About 12 districts, 35 blocks/talukas, are affected by drought, and some districts are affected by floods. The approximate estimate of losses is Rs. 3,589 crore.

Under the NDRF, only Rs. 149 crore has been made available to Karnataka. Since the loss is much higher, the State Government has submitted a memorandum in October, 2014 requesting for Rs. 799 crore for drought-affected areas, and Rs. 266 crore for flood-affected areas. So far the Central Government has not released a single *paisa* to our Karnataka State.

My humble request to the hon. Minister of Finance and the Government of India is to release the funds under NDRF on a priority basis so that funds could reach the distressed farmers. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri S.P. Muddahanumegowda and

Shri B.V. Nayak are permitted to associate with Shri R. Dhruvanarayana.