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Title: Need to provide compensation to farmers suffering from loss of crops due to vagaries of nature.

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): Natural calamities like cyclones/droughts often occur in certain parts of our country. Through the Communication and IT systems, which we had developed, we are able to minimize human loss but not agricultural produce, particularly in harvesting season. Farmer is put to loss for no fault of him. His investment, for example, on paddy per acre which amounts to Rs.15,000 to Rs.20,000 makes him bankrupt. Even fertilizer subsidy of Rs.73,000 crore spent by the Government does not come to the rescue of farmers.

There should be a change in the conventional form of visit of Central teams to assess the gravity of the havoc and later doling out meagre grants or financial assistance to the States, which do not address the financial loss of the farmer adequately.

It is time to think about the financial loss incurred by the farmer and to transfer money, say, Rs.10,000 per acre in his bank account through RTGS so that he can go for cultivation without any financial burden. Farmer with 5 acre wet land and 10 acre dry land may also be considered for this money transfer. This will slowly reduce subsidy to the Government's exchequer on seeds and fertilizers.