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Title: Need to take steps to check suicide committed by farmers in Telangana.

SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY (KHAMMAM): Madam Speaker, I wish to bring an important issue to the notice of the Government through this august House.

Nearly 350 farmers in the Telangana State have committed suicide in the six months since the State came into being on June 2 this year due to massive power and water crises. These crises led to these tragic deaths. While delayed and deficit rains have played havoc in the State, crop failures due to poor rains, non-existent irrigation system and debt burden have pushed them to suicides. No fresh bank loans and poor power supply in this season have pushed farmers into despair. Some of the main reasons are lack of Minimum Support Price to the agricultural produce of farmers and their inability to repay their borrowings which they have taken at high rates of interest from private moneylenders. They were hoping that one bumper crop will solve all their woes. But monsoon failure and the absence of any crop insurance scheme make suicide the only escape route.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप थोड़े में अपनी बात कहिए। You are not supposed to read all these things; you only have to point it out.

SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY : I would urge upon the Government to declare this as a national disaster and 'agriculture emergency', apart from taking immediate confidence building measures to curb suicides in Telangana.