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title: Need to provide financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures for people distressed due to recent unseasonal rains and hailstorms in the State.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): Thank you, hon. Deputy-Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

I would like to draw kind attention of the august House regarding the unseasonal torrential rains coupled with hailstorms, which claimed human lives and caused damage to crops in over one lakh acres in Andhra Pradesh. Unseasonal rains played havoc in Rayalaseema and the worst-affected districts are Anantapur, Kurnool, Kadapa, Chittoor and Srikakulam. The normal life was disrupted in many towns and left hundreds of villages without electricity as gail winds uprooted electrical poles. Our hon. CM of Andhra Pradesh has immediately announced an *ex-gratia* sum of Rs. 4 lakh to each of the bereaved families. Enumeration of crop damage as well as loss of livestock is going on in order to furnish proposals for financial assistance to the affected farmers.

Likewise, mango farmers in Andhra Pradesh, the State with the highest mango production, have suffered crop losses worth millions due to sudden hailstorms. The loss is estimated to be around thousands of crores of rupees. As per the estimated reports, nearly half the standing crop has been damaged in many parts of Andhra Pradesh. The coconut and chilly farmers have also suffered heavy damages. Poultry farms also suffered damages.

Keeping in view the position explained above, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture, through the Chair, to kindly intervene in the matter and provide financial succor to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh without further delay. Thank you, Sir.