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Title: Issue regarding reduction in the production of pomegranate and grapes in Koppal Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL): Chairman, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me valuable time to speak. I would also like to pay respect to the people of my constituency, Koppal.

Sir, grape and pomegranate are major food products in Karnataka, including my constituency Koppal. Karnataka is the second highest producer of pomegranate. Pomegranate and grapes are the major sources of revenue generation for the State of Karnataka but for the last 12-14 years there were disturbances faced by the farmers producing grapes and pomegranate. The main reason for a reduction in the production of grapes and pomegranate is the drought condition between 2001 and 2004. Then, in 2005 there was flood, both drought and flood in 2006, flood in 2007, untimely rains during harvesting in 2008, heavy flood and drought in 2009, severe drought in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The first and foremost reason for the reduced production of pomegranate is a disease that struck the prospects of the pomegranate crop. The name of this disease is the bacterial blight. It started in early 2000 and became epidemic from 2004 onwards. This disease damages all the above-ground parts of the plant and in serious cases leaves crack in flowers and fruits. This reduction in the production of grapes and pomegranates has caused heavy financial loss to the growers. This situation has resulted in the non-rejuvenation of the garden and farmers are not in a position to repay the loan. Term loans evaluation by the scheduled nationalised banks is long overdue and as a result the interest on the loan amount is increasing every year.

सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन में कहना चाहता हूँ कि कॅॉप के मामले में किसानों की हालत बहुत गंभीर है। लगभग 10-15 साल से प्रोडक्शन नहीं हो रहा है। यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है, इसलिए हम चाहते हैं कि खेत में काम करने वाले किसानों की जो डिमांड इंटरस्ट देव करने की है, उस तरफ सरकार ध्यान दे।

सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि ऐसे किसानों की मदद करें।

HON. CHAIRPERSON:

Shri R.Dhruvanarayana may be allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sanganna Karadi.

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya ji, already the Minister has responded and made a statement also.