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Title: Need to include groundnut cultivation in Andhra Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY (ANANTAPUR): Madam Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention an issue of grave importance.

The hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji has launched the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in January this year. The main motto of this Scheme is to provide more efficient insurance support to farmers of the country.

Anantapur district is one of the most drought-affected areas in Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh the distribution of rainfall also varies considerably year to year.

Groundnut is a major *kharif* crop in Anantapur with about eight lakh hectares under cultivation. Majority of the groundnut cultivation in the district is rainfed. Owing to less than normal monsoon, groundnut cultivation had resulted in huge loss for farmers for the past five consecutive years.

This has also resulted in a decrease in the number of farmers taking to groundnut cultivation. As per estimates of number of beneficiaries availing groundnut seed distribution by the Government, four lakh farmers have left farming altogether in the district in the last five years. Groundnut is an important commercial crop in the region which influences everything of people of Anantapur not only connected with farming sector but also with the entire trading every year.

Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu had announced input subsidy for groundnut farmers in the district. A Groundnut Research Centre has also been established to turn groundnut cultivation as a reliable and profitable profession.

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not read the whole material from the paper.

SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY: Previously, A weather based crop insurance scheme was announced exclusively for groundnut farmers in Anantapur and nearby districts.

I would request the Government to expand the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to the groundnut farmers in Anantapur district and Rayalaseema.  
...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri J.C. Divakar Reddy.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Vincent H. Pala – not present.