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Title: Need to revise the existing norms of National Disaster Response Fund.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): The entire country is aware that torrential rains and the consequent flooding in the area around Chennai last year inflicted enormous losses on MSMEs damaging plant and machinery, buildings and stocks of raw material and finished products. At the Government of Tamil Nadu's request, the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) of Tamil Nadu on 14.12.2015, after due consideration of the extraordinary circumstances, devised a package similar to the package adopted for MSMEs affected during floods of 2014 in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the Reserve Bank of India curtailed the package recommended by the SLBC. Hence, Ministry of Finance should instruct the RBI to reconsider its views and accept the recommendations of the Tamil Nadu SLBC held on 14.12.2015. Further, the existing norms of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) provide for relief for loss of human life, crops, cattle, dwelling units, etc. However, there is no provision for compensation to MSMEs on account of damages suffered during natural calamities. This anomaly needs immediate rectification. With regard to this issue, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had already requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister through a memorandum. Hence, NDRF norms may be suitably revised and relief provided to flood affected MEMEs in Tamil Nadu. Further, an appropriate area based insurance scheme with reasonable rate of premium may also be considered for MSME units.