

Post Office. The Tehsildar assured them of immediate action. But no information is available till date. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August, 2001, under the leadership of the Chairman of the Action Council, a 'road-blocking agitation' was organised. This time, the district authorities assured them of immediate action. They again held a dharna in front of the Taluk office and presented a memorandum for the redressal of their grievances.

Sir, I request the hon. External Affairs Minister to contact, through our Ambassadors, the Governments of these countries to know the status of these persons and to get them released, if they are in prison. If they are killed, the Government should take emergency steps to get relief from the concerned boat owner, and extend relief measures to their family members who lost their only bread-winners.

SHRI M. A. KADAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

#### **Agriculture Crops Insurance Scheme**

SHRI R. KAMARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to raise the matter regarding assessment of loss or damage to standing crops during natural calamities like floods and drought. Under the present Crop Insurance Scheme, 'Harvest Tests' for assessing the loss or damage to crops are being made by one or two survey members of one or two villages in a Taluk. They take the earlier year's production into consideration. The difference in production of the previous year and the year in which the crops are affected by natural calamities, is assessed. Accordingly, compensation is paid to farmers. Because of this practice adopted for purposes of the Crop Insurance Scheme, farmers are unable to get the exact compensation for their loss. This method of loss assessment is not beneficial to farmers in getting compensation. The 'Harvest Test' should be done by insurance people in all the villages which are affected by natural calamities, or, in, at least, fifty per cent of the affected villages so that the actual loss to farmers comes to light. Thereafter, an average of the loss or damage may be taken into consideration for purposes of compensation.

I, therefore, request the Government to take necessary action for making suitable modifications in the existing method of assessment of loss or damage to crops in order to help farmers in getting a reasonable compensation.