

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding the release of crop insurance money to farmers whose crops are destroyed due to natural calamities and to increase the paddy price as recommended by Swaminathan Committee.

**SHRI NITESH GANGA DEB (SAMBALPUR):** Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on crop insurance and farmers' distress relating to my parliamentary constituency of Sambalpur of the State of Odisha. My parliamentary constituency, Sambalpur, is located in the western part of Odisha. Farmers of my parliamentary constituency are on strike for the past almost 28 days. These small and medium farmers totally depend upon their farm produce for their livelihood. Natural calamities like cyclone and drought have destroyed their kharif crops. These farmers are leading a minimum standard of life. Kharif crop failure has taken away their smiles and happiness. They have travelled from pillar to post for getting crop insurance. I have also personally visited them during their strike. Instead of sending Crop Insurance Beneficiary Report to the Central Government, I am sorry to state that the Government of Odisha has held up this Report for almost nine months. This speaks of the negligence of the Government of Odisha towards farmers.

I condemn this attitude of the State Government. I recently came to know that the Government of Odisha has sent the list of crop insurance beneficiaries to the Central Government a few days back. I urge the Central Government through you to release the crop insurance money to the farmers of my parliamentary constituency as early as possible. Sir, I would also request, through you, the Central Government to increase the paddy price as recommended by the Swaminathan

Committee, and to strengthen the *Mandis* to purchase paddy directly from the farmers. Thank you.