

Title: Need to declare gram panchayat as a unit for the purpose of crop insurance in Orissa.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Orissa faced a severe drought situation last year, which has almost broken the backbone of the farmers because the State is suffering from natural calamities like cyclone, flood and drought consecutively since last four years. Lakhs of farmers had gone for crop insurance in the State. But unfortunately the assessment of crop loss has been done so erroneously that proper justice has not been done to the farmers of the State. Where there has been crop loss of more than 70 per cent, the farmers are compensated at a loss rate of only 20 per cent to 25 per cent in the State, particularly in my constituency of Sambalpur which consists of both Sambalpur and Bargarh districts. The demand of the farmers to make gram panchayat a unit instead of the prevalent policy of making block a unit for crop insurance has not yet been considered whereas in many other States panchayat has been declared a unit for this purpose.

I urge upon the Central Government to reconsider the whole issue and make proper arrangement to adequately compensate the farmers of Orissa for the heavy loss they have incurred during last year due to unprecedented drought situation. The Government should also consider to declare the gram panchayat as a unit for the purpose of crop insurance.