

**Title:** Need to take immediate steps to check the severe drought in Western part of Orissa, particularly in the districts of Bolangir, Sonpur and Naupara.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSINGHPUR): Sir, I would draw the attention of the House and the Government towards a serious problem.

There is a severe drought in western parts of Orissa, particularly in the districts of Bolangir, Sonpur and Naupara. Due to want of rain, there is no crop in *aat* land and *verna* land and paddy crops have also started drying up. Reports of starvation deaths have started coming up. Shrimati Revathi Nayak, aged 50 years, of Rengali village of Agalpur block, Bolangir has died due to starvation. People have started leaving their villages towards distant places like Raipur and Hyderabad in order to eke out their livelihood. Immediate steps must be taken on this matter. I draw the attention of the Central Government, particularly of the Minister for Agriculture, to look into this matter seriously.