

Title: Demand to send a high level central team to study the drought situation in the state of Orissa and to provide aid in this regard.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): Sir, as we all know, out of 30 districts in Orissa, 24 districts are now reeling under the severe drought situation, particularly, eight districts of the western part of the State. There has been a short-fall of around 40 per cent rainfall this year which caused crop loss of around 70 per cent to 90 per cent. Paddy worth Rs. 750 crore has also been lost in the State.

Sir, now the poor farmers, the medium farmers and the landless labourers have started migrating to other States. At the Titlagarh and Kantabanji railway stations, everyday, it can be seen, thousands of poor labourers and farmers gathering to leave the State in search of work.

The irony is that in the few irrigated pockets where there has been good crop, a distress sale is being reported.

Sir, on the one hand, people are on the verge of dying due to want of food, on the other hand even wherever there is a good crop, there is nobody to purchase. FCI is sitting tight. They are not acting. They are not responding to the situation.

Sir, the most tragic part is that in spite of the repeated reminders by the State Government of Orissa, the Central Government has not reacted so far. I am sorry to say here that in spite of the repeated requests from the State Government of Orissa, so far the Central Government has not sent a high level Central team to our State to assess the situation.

Therefore, I demand the Union Government to immediately send a high level Central team to study the drought situation of the State of Orissa. Three days back a serious report has come that one farmer has committed suicide thereâ€¦(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : Sir, now the farmers have started committing suicide in Orissa. Therefore, I demand of the Union Government to immediately respond to the situation.