

Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to meet drought situation in Anantapur District.

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (ANANTAPUR): Sir, the fourth consecutive drought in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh is causing untold misery to the lakhs of farmers and labourers. Crop failure and scarcity of drinking water have made the future uncertain for the farmers. Groundnut, which is the mainstay of economy, failed fourth time in series mounting indebtedness. The people are deserting their villages in thousands in search of food and work making village after village empty. The relief works launched by the Government of Andhra Pradesh from its meagre resources proved inadequate. This warrants liberal assistance from the Union Government to supplement the efforts of the State. I request an immediate sanction of Rs.500 crore worth relief package to the district along with the release of two lakh tonnes of rice for 'Food for Work' programme. I also request to start an artificial rain research centre to explore the alternative to failing monsoons.