

NT>

Title: Need to grant financial assistance to the Government of Orissa for providing relief to the people affected by drought in the State.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Sir, a serious situation has arisen in Orissa as major part of the State is facing acute drought situation this year. The State of Orissa experiences drought, cyclone, flood or some kind of natural calamities or the other. But the current year's drought has crippled the economy of the farmers and agricultural workers in the drought prone districts. On the other hand, timely aid and assistance has not reached these needy people. With the failure of crops, the farmers do not have any kind of employment to earn their livelihood. Under the circumstances they are leaving their homeland and migrating to far off places like Surat, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi. The plight of these hungry people of the drought affected areas are beyond description.

I request the Central Government to undertake relief and rehabilitation work on a war footing. Food for work programme should be extended to all the districts which are reeling under the impact of drought. Employment should also be generated under Central Schemes to stop any further migration.