

Title: Raised the matter regarding recent starvation deaths in Orissa.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (KARUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to raise an import important matter regarding recent starvation deaths in Orissa.

Sir, after these starvation deaths, the Government of India has not taken any steps so far to prevent more starvation deaths. So, the Government of India was reminded by the Supreme Court that food is a Fundamental Right and that the Government should be prepared to give it free to the people, if they need it. But the Government of India, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues seem to be totally unconcerned about it.

Yesterday, I did read a news item in the newspaper that the hon. Minister of Food, Shri Shanta Kumar, has stated that it is the responsibility of the State Government. I want to know from the Government whose responsibility is this; whether it is the responsibility of the State Government or the Central Government.

Sir, this is a serious issue. Even after 54 years of Independence, we see such happenings of starvation deaths in the country. It is regrettable and condemnable. I want an explanation from the Government of India.