

Title: Need to take adequate measures to increase production of foodgrains in North Eastern India.

SHRI DIP GOGOI (KALIABOR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, though India is much smaller in size than China, luckily, we have more land for cultivation. Our cultivable land covers an area of 140 million hectares whereas China has 100 million hectares. But the sad reality is that we produce 205 million tonnes of foodgrains in comparison to Chinese 420 million tonnes. That is more than double of our production per hectare. This has been made possible in China by intensive irrigation facilities, use of fertilisers and through the introduction of hybrid varieties of rice. East India, including North-East, is lacking in irrigation facilities - far behind the rest of India. In Assam at Jorhat, we have a Rice Research Centre for East India. But due to paucity of funds, it could not deliver the results as it was expected.

So, I urge upon the Government to give enough funds and, at the same time, realise the fact that there is a silver lining for production of more foodgrains in the near future in the background of growing population in this part of the country.