

nt>

**Title:** Demand to send a central team to study the unprecedented drought in the Western Orissa and provide relief to the affected people.so.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the plight of the people in my constituency. As you may be aware, the entire Western Orissa is reeling under unprecedented drought of which Bolangir is, what you may call, the epicentre.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, a lady Member is speaking. Please take your seat. Show some courtesy towards lady Members.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Out of 241 *gram panchayats*, 229 *gram panchayats* have been totally affected, while the rest are partially affected. Since there is no rainfall there is acute scarcity of water and hence, crop loss has been estimated to the extent of 80 per cent. Mass exodus from the area has reached alarming proportions. Till today, 36,000 people have migrated to neighbouring States. This is not a mere drought; in fact, it is a famine like situation. So, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly visit the area and declare the drought that is there, as a national calamity. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Sir, I associate myself with what she has just now said. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): As requested by the lady Member from Bolangir, a Central team should visit the districts of Bolangir and Kalahandi both, in the State of Orissa. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Deo, you can also associate with her. Now, Shri Adhir Chowdhary.