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Title: Shortage of drinking water due to scanty rainfall in Orissa.

TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Sir, thank you for calling me. Ahead of you sits the Left. On your left is the extreme left. But there is one slice of the pizza which is in between, which always gets ignored. I thank you very much again because you have been kind enough to call me though I sit amongst this ignored slice of Pizza.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to your point.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Yes, Sir.

I wish to draw the attention of this august House and the Union Government about the scanty rainfall in Orissa during this monsoon. Amongst the 30 districts of Orissa, upto June 25th, the rainfall has been very much below average. In certain districts like Deogarh, Sundergarh, Puri, Jagatsingpur, Khurda, Ganjam and Bargarh, the rainfall has been less than average by 64.5 per cent. In my Constituency that comprises of three districts – Angul, Dhenkenal and Sonapur, the rainfall has been 73 per cent below average.

Sir, this is not only going to affect the irrigation facilities, it is also going to severely affect the drinking water availability. The pressure would be felt next year if the rains do not come properly.

We have 16,175 lift irrigation points in Orissa. Out of that, only 9,400 are working as of now. We have, in our State, *pani panchayat* or water panchayat; and of these 9,400 points, 6,867 are included in *pani panchayat*.

I wish to draw the attention of the Union Government that if all the lift irrigation points that are in position now – that is, 16,175 points – are activated and special funds are made available to get them working, this will partially solve the drinking water problem also. Along with this, the Central Government has to make some sort of arrangement whereby surplus water, in the form of water harvesting structures, is stored so that ground water is re-charged.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, Sir, that this is of prime importance. If this is not taken up immediately, it will affect the drinking water problem of the State during the months of November-December.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Dharendra Agarwal – not present here.

Now, Shri Omar Abdullah.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just wait for a minute. Please allow me to conduct the House. I am trying to give opportunities to all sides of the House. I am trying to find out which are the most important ones – drinking water, drought, flood, -- and giving them priorities.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. You are unnecessarily talking. Do not waste your energy now. When I call you, then only, you can speak. Nothing else will be recorded.

Let us cultivate this system. Nothing else will be recorded except the statement of the hon. Member whom I call. This is a standing instruction.