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Title: Regarding need to provide financial assistance to the people who suffered loss of crops in Odisha due to recent cyclone that ravaged the coastal parts of the State.

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL (SUNDARGARH): On 12th October, 2013 strong storm followed by incessant rain caused havoc in Odisha. The coastal districts were affected by the storm and the districts of Mayurbhanj and Balasore were miserably affected by flood. Again after a week State sustained immense loss due to flash floods. In the Western part of the State Sundargarh District is the worst affected. The standing paddy crops which were to be harvested have been totally damaged. Ground nut and vegetable cultivation got damaged and horticulture badly affected. Almost all the cultivators obtained loan from Banks and Cooperative Societies for this purpose and they are in panic after this loss. In the last three years, 3700 farmers mostly from this region have committed suicide being unable to make repayment of the loan.

So, the Union Government is urged upon to intervene in the matter and direct the State Government for proper assessment of the damages caused and disbursement of fresh loan to cultivators for undertaking agricultural activities.