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Title: Drought situation in West Bengal.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance pertaining to drought conditions in parts of West Bengal.

Sir, the State Government of West Bengal has declared 11 districts as drought-affected districts in the State. These districts are, Purulia, Bankura, Maldah, Birbhum, Murshidabad, Burdman, Hooghly, West Midnapur, Nadia, North and South 24 Parganas. These districts have suffered due to an average rainfall deficit of 30 per cent. To face the situation, the State Government of West Bengal primarily allotted Rs. 50 crore. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has written a letter to the Union Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar to take effective steps to face the challenge. The Centre should immediately release an amount of Rs. 1,400 crore under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

The Government should send adequate food grain stocks to the affected people and the agriculturists.

I would urge upon the Union Government to send a Central team to assess the situation of the drought affected areas....(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BOLPUR): Sir, this is a very important issue...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Mr. Madan is submitting.

(*Interruptions*) â€¢*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member from your Party has already raised the issue. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, there will be a discussion on the flood and drought situation in the country. They can raise the issue at that time...(*Interruptions*)