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Title: Drought situation in Bolangir and Sonepur in Odhisha.

SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Sir, I rise to speak about the impending severe drought condition which looms over the regions of Western Orissa and KBK of Orissa. This area is predominantly resided by the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It has some of the lowest human development industries of the entire country. Now, in the month of June, there has been more than 50 per cent deficit rainfall. Even in the month of July, there has been deficit rainfall. In my recent visit to those areas and in particular the districts of Bolangir and Sonepur, I have found that more than 75 per cent drought conditions exist.

I would urge upon the Government through you to declare this area as a drought prone area and to grant a special package from the Centre for the help of the farmers of this area.

I would also urge on one more point. There has been a request from the State Government for a special package sanction of the KBK area to the tune of Rs. 4500 crore which has been pending with the Planning Commission for the last five years. I would request you to tell the Government of India to sanction this package as early as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tathagata Satpathy is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo.