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Title : Need to set up additional Anganwadi centres in Kandhamal district of Orissa.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (KANDHAMAL): The Kandhamal district in Orissa is one of the most backward districts of Orissa. As per the report of UN World Food Programme published in the year 2008, this district is placed at the lowest position in Orissa so far as food security is concerned. This report also reveals that infant mortality rate (IMR) in this district is 119 as compared to national average of 57. This district is considered to be the lowest in all parameters of poverty. Out of the total population, 53% of the population belongs to STs and 65% of the total land is covered by forest lands and as such the agricultural production is very low. This district is at the bottom compared to KBK districts of Orissa so far as its economic condition, education, health-care, food security and connectivity are concerned.

To overcome this food insecurity, imbalances and especially to decrease IMR, the Union Government should rise to the occasion. The total revenue villages of this district are 2,500 out of which only 1350 villages have been covered by Anganwadi centres and 250 are covered under mini Anganwadi centres. As this district is mostly under forest cover and villages are separated by rivers and natural barriers, 50% of the population are not benefited by ICDS programme. Hence, I urge upon the Government to kindly sanction 900 additional Anganwadi centres so that tribal and down-trodden people of the district are benefited.

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