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Title: Issue regarding insufficient rainfall in Northern Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. I want to bring to the notice of the Government, through this august House, the serious problem of scanty rainfall in spite of presence of clouds. I thank the UPA Government for starting flagship programmes for the welfare of farmers and agricultural production.

As the House knows, 70 per cent of our agriculture growth depends upon rainfall only. Though, the Indian Meteorological Department predicted normal rainfall for the coming monsoon period, there are places like North Coastal Andhra, which do not receive rainfall in spite of presence of clouds. For the last four years, there has been no normal rainfall during the Kharif sowing period. Due to scanty rainfall, sowing of seeds for various crops and ploughing of land is getting delayed. Consequently, agricultural productivity is reducing year by year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your plea? Please be brief.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI : Sir, normally, farmers sow seeds in the month of June or July. But due to delayed rains, they get sporadic rainfall in the month of August. Then, farmers start sowing seeds and plantation of paddy crop in August only. Due to this, farmers are not able to produce the required food grains in North Andhra, which depends only on rainfall.

In my Parliamentary constituency, Vizianagaram, in every Kharif season, more than two lakh acres of paddy cultivation is supposed to take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to your demand now. What is your demand?

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI : But due to less rainfall, 70 per cent of cultivation is affected. It may be due to climate change. We are facing either irregular heavy rains or drought situation, namely, *athivrishti-anavrishti*.

I am not asking for creation of artificial clouds. Already, natural clouds are present over North Andhra. The Government should find out the reasons for no rainfall from those natural clouds so that farmers may be benefited from it.

Due to hilly terrain and coastal territory of North Andhra, it is raining in hilly areas as well as in the sea. In view of this scenario, I request, through you, that the Government should send a scientific team to Vizianagaram and find the reasons for not getting sufficient rainfall -- as the plain areas or irrigated areas are getting it -- in spite of presence of abundant clouds over North Andhra.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, some emissary has to go to see the God of clouds!

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI : Yes, Sir. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next hon. Member is Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal. Please be very brief.