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Title: Need to extend necessary assistance to the drought-affected people in Rajasthan.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR): Over the last few years, drought has become a vicious calamity for Rajasthan. West Rajasthan has received about 6.3mm rainfall in June and East Rajasthan has received 14.8mm as per the Indian Meteorological Department. Failing crops has resulted in extreme starvation in districts of Jodhpur, Nagaur, Barmer, Bikaner and Jaisalmer as these are worst-affected. The cumulative rainfall from 01.06.2012 to 15.07.2012 was 22% less than the long period average as per the Indian Meteorological department. 65% of water bodies are also empty leading to loss of livestock. The major impact of drought has been on the BPL families who suffer the most due to unavailability of wheat. Insufficient rainfall has plunged these families into deeper debt resulting in loss of life due to thirst and starvation. I humbly request the Government to extend necessary assistance to the affected population with special consideration to the BPL households at the earliest.