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Title: Regarding flood and drought situation in Orissa.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Odisha is witnessing a serious flood-like situation in some parts of the State, specially in the northern parts of the State. In the Districts like Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Bhadra and Jajpur, lakhs of people have been severely affected. The seedlings have totally washed away and the farmers are in great distress. That is one of the major reasons why I am raising it here today. Lives and livestock and damage to the crop has already occurred in these five-six Districts where lakhs of people have been badly affected.

In the western part of Odisha, there is a drought-like situation. Whatever seeds were sown have also withered away. In the Districts like Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Sambhalpur and specially, Bolangir, which is a rain shadow area, the total crop has also been damaged.

Sir, as the cultivation has been damaged, migration is now going to take place. Also, the MGNREGA is not happening there. The people cannot get work there. Therefore, I would request the Ministry of RD to intervene in the matter and allow the State Government so that work can start in those areas where there is drought-like situation. I would also request the Ministry of Agriculture Ministry to support to the Agriculture Department of the State so that sowing also can take place in the flood-affected areas of Odisha.