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Title: Need to provide funds to tackle drought condition in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI N. KRISTAPPA (HINDUPUR): I would like to submit that Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh is the second most backward and drought prone district in the country.

Anantapur district is facing severe drought problem. The rainfall is very much low in the past 15 years. There are around 3000 villages in my constituency and the situation is grim with huge scarcity of drinking water. Even during the rainy season, not a droplet is visible in any drinking water project.

Other occupations are also being affected due to least rainfall in the district. The sheep rearing has declined drastically as the fodder is not available. Groundnut, a major crop in Anantapur, is dying in the budding stage due to absence of rainfall. Second crop in Sericulture, more than 50% trade has been reduced due to reduced import duty on silk yarn. Weavers and other artisans are unable to sell their products as there is no flow of money to the market.

There is acute water scarcity and do not have water for drinking purposes. The District Collector has urged the Central team of Ministers who visited Anantapur district recently, to sanction funds of Rs.1405 crore towards drought relief measures.

With poor monsoon, depleting ground water level, untimely rains, non-availability of fodder wreaked havoc with agriculture this year, hence the farmers are pinning their hopes on the recent visit of Central Ministers.

The state is taking steps to provide water to Anantapur district. I request the Central Government too to empathize with us and provide its support at the earliest.

Before the Lok Sabha elections, the UPA Government had assured the Seemandhra region of the Special Category status. As assured by the then Prime Minister, Special Status may be announced immediately to stop further suicides in the State of Andhra Pradesh and adequate compensation may be provided.

At the same time, our beloved Chief Minister is striving for the linkage of Godavari and Krishna rivers to provide water for irrigation and drinking water purposes to Anantapur and other Rayalaseema region. I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly support the State Government to complete the project by providing all clearances from the Centre, at the earliest. Till then, kindly arrange immediate relief from the Centre to overcome the drought situation in the district.