

Title: Need for formation of Western Orissa Development Council.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): The western part of Orissa consisting of ten districts including Kalahandi is economically a very backward area. Though this part of the country is replete with minerals, rich forests and full with water resources, it is still reeling under poverty due to non-utilisation of all these resources. The people of the area have been demanding, in one voice, for the formation of Western Orissa Development Council for many years. Though assurances have been given in the past by the Governments, yet nothing tangible has been done in this regard so far.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps in this regard.