

**Title:** Request the Central Government to give financial support to the Anantapur District as the rainfed crops turned out to be the worst hit crops due to the declining in rainfall.

SHRI S. GANGADHAR (HINDUPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the population of Anantapur district is more than 30 lakh. Sixty per cent of the population depends on rainfed agricultural produce. The rainfall is the second lowest in the country, next to Jaisalmer. There is a decline in rainfall during the last five years, year after year.

In south west monsoon, the district was in receipt of 283.8 mm. The distribution during the season was highly erratic. Owing to unfavorable seasonal conditions, only 6.95 hectares were sown in the district as against the normal area of 8.30 hectares. Out of the sown area, about 2.10 lakh hectares suffered on account of lack of moisture. The rainfed main commercial crops - groundnut and cotton - turned out to be the worst hit crops in the district. The district authorities are simply helpless as no funds are available with them to meet the situation.

Drinking water and fodder are not available. The funds placed at the disposal of the State Government under the Centrally sponsored Employment Assurance Scheme had been diverted to the Janam Bhoomi programme, a brainchild of the present Chief Minister. Most of the money so diverted has been pocketed by the TDP supporters and workers. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI S. GANGADHAR : The people have lost faith in the present State Government. They are not paying due attention and they have failed to address to their chaotic conditions.

Sir, I, therefore, request you to direct the Central Government to immediately intervene in this matter on a war footing and remedy the situation by rushing the desired help to the needy people.