

**RE: SEVERE DROUGHT IN EASTERN INDIA, SPECIALLY WEST
BENGAL AND BIHAR**

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (WEST BENGAL): Sir, because of deficit rainfall, the entire Eastern India is facing unprecedented drought. Today, it is raining in Delhi but not in West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh or Jharkhand. Sir, the Government of West Bengal has declared eleven districts as drought hit. Entire Bihar and entire Jharkhand have been declared as drought hit. In West Bengal, there is 30 per cent deficit rainfall. Lakhs of hectare of land is not in a position to be cultivated. Common farmers lost their jobs due to this drought. In West Bengal specially, there is a demand to increase the work of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS by manifold. But, fund constraint is there. Fund is not available. According to the Government report, the fund availability is Rs.1165 crores. Fund already spent in West Bengal is Rs.949 crores. But, it was not reflected on the website due to the time gap taken by the Department of Rural Development of the Government of India. The State Government has already got only Rs.170 crore. Sir, Rs.1400 crore is required under the head of 'Labour Estimate' to face the drought situation in West Bengal. Sir, the Chief Minister of West Bengal has already written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister of the Government of India. He demanded two things. The first was to send a Central Team to assess the situation in Bengal. Lakhs of people are suffering due to the drought situation. His second demand was that instructions should be issued for immediate release of balance amount of second tranche of Central share without going into the nitty-gritty of accounting procedure to save the common people and to provide jobs to

the common people of Bengal who are facing the drought situation prevailing in Bengal and other parts of Eastern India - Jharkhand and Bihar. This is my demand, through you, Sir, to the Government of India.

(Ends)

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (WEST BENGAL): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Moinul Hassan.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (BIHAR): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Moinul Hassan.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (WEST BENGAL): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Moinul Hassan.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (WEST BENGAL): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Moinul Hassan.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (WEST BENGAL): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Moinul Hassan.

(Ends)

RE: SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITION IN JHARKHAND

SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH (JHARKHAND): Sir, this is about the State of Jharkhand. The State of Jharkhand is in the grip of severe drought affecting the livelihood of large number of tribals and farmers from all communities. Out of all

the 23 districts in the State, all have been judged short of rainfall resulting in poor cropping, which, in turn, has created a situation of anxiety among the farmers. We all are aware that the State is under the Presidential Rule due to the political instability for the last several months. As of now, there is no popular Government. There is no voice of people in the State. The entire administrative responsibility is vested in the Central Government which is exercising its administrative action through the hon. Governor.

(continued by 1t - gsp)

GSP-VNK-1T-12.30

SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH (contd.): The aspirations of the farmers are not being taken care of. Now, the Parliament is the only legislative forum, where aspirations and concerns of the people of Jharkhand can be raised. I have been recently elected to Rajya Sabha, and, it is my responsibility to request immediate intervention of the Union Government to provide relief in drought-hit areas of Jharkhand. I earnestly ask the Union Government to provide a relief of Rs. 5,000 crore to the State of Jharkhand. I would also request the hon. Prime Minister to visit Jharkhand to ameliorate the sufferings of the people of Jharkhand. I also request that a high-powered committee should be constituted by the Prime Minister to make immediate visit to the affected areas of Jharkhand and supervise the drought-relief operations in the State of Jharkhand.

So far, it has been reported that the State has received much less than 50 per cent of rainfall. Sir, the situation is grave and may go out of control if the Government at the Centre fails to fulfill the aspirations of the people of the State of

Jharkhand. The recent Naxal violence in the State may be fuelled if the farmers are not taken care of. Two crore people of the State of Jharkhand are eagerly awaiting a response of this august House and support from the Central Government in this critical hour.

Sir, I was allotted three minutes. I spoke for the first time, and, I still have 36 seconds to go. I did not waste any time. Thank you.

(Ends)

**RE: DISAPPEARANCE OF TRUCKS CARRYING EXPLOSIVES
IN MADHYA PRADESH**

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (KARNATAKA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, through your good office, I am inviting the attention of the Ministry of Home Affairs to an explosive matter. It is reported in *The Hindustan Times* daily in its issue dated 15th August, 2010 that four of the sixty one trucks carrying 400-tonnes of explosives, which were missing in their course of journey from Rajasthan to Madhya Pradesh since four months, were found empty on Friday night in Rajgarh District of Madhya Pradesh. It is further reported that the police team seized the vehicles parked in front of a local trading company, B.M. Traders, at Pipala village of Beoara Tehsil of Rajgarh District, 150-kilometre north of Bhopal. The trucks were sent from Rajasthan Explosives and Chemicals Limited to Ganesh Magazine in Sagar between April and July. The incident itself is explosive involving questions as to whose hands it has reached, who is behind this miraculous escape of such big trucks carrying huge quantities of explosives, what is the motive, why did it take