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Title: Issue regarding increased debt burden and unemployment rate in Odisha.

SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI (BHUBANESWAR): Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to two issues pertaining to Odisha. One is unemployment status and the other is debt burden of rural households.

Sir, two very significant Reports have been released sometime back. One Report has been released by the National Statistical Office known as All-India Debt and Investment Survey Report. You will be astonished to know that one particular political party has been in power for the past 20 years in Odisha but Odisha is the poorest State in the country in terms of average asset value of rural households and 40.5 per cent of the rural households are under debt. Of these rural households which are under debt, 46.4 per cent households are cultivators. I think, this is a matter of utmost concern for us. I reiterate, Odisha is the poorest State in the country in terms of average asset value of households.

Sir, the number two issue is pertaining to unemployment. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy has just released a Report and Odisha is very high in terms of unemployment rate. There is 23.5 per cent unemployment rate in Odisha which is much higher than the national average.

So, Sir, through you, I would request the Central Government to ask for the Report from the State Government as regards the increased

debt burden in Odisha and also regarding the unemployment rate, which is very high compared to the national average. Thank you.