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Title: Need to prepare a perspective plan for the all round development and to check recurring drought in Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (ANANTAPUR): Sir, Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh receives the lowest rainfall. Agriculture is the only source of livelihood for the people in the district. There are no industries, small or big, in the district to provide alternative source of livelihood.

Every year drought forces thousands of agricultural workers to migrate to far off places in search of employment. This pathetic condition needs more than routine drought relief work. The Central team, which recently visited the district, also felt the need to evolve a permanent survival strategy for the rural poor of the district.

I request the Government to dispatch a team of experts consisting of sociologists, economists, etc. under the supervision of a professional body to study the conditions and resource potential of the district and make suitable suggestions to launch such projects which will tackle the problem of rural unemployment once for all. Now, it is high time the Government thought of diversification of agriculture in the district in to other sectors like food processing, silk garments making, etc.

I also request the Government to take up the matter with the Planning Commission to prepare a perspective plan for the overall development of the district which, due to adverse natural conditions, has been placed at an agriculturally disadvantaged position.