

Title: Need to sanction more watershed for Anantpur district in Andhra Pradesh under Desert Development Programme.

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (ANANTAPUR): The district of Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh is facing a severe drought situation due to failure of monsoon this year. This district is receiving 540 mm as normal rainfall which is the second lowest in the entire country after Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. In June, the district received only 36 mm as against the normal rainfall of 131 mm. This failure of rains led to suspension of all agricultural activities in the district rendering nearly five lakh families jobless. The district is experiencing severe drinking water and fodder shortage. Anantapur is covered under Desert Development Programme (DDP). The Government of Andhra Pradesh earlier had requested for sanction of 200 Water Sheds during 2000-2001 under DDP. But only ten water sheds were sanctioned during the year. Anantapur District is prone to frequent droughts resulting in untold miseries to the people, in particular agricultural labourers. So, I request the hon. Union Minister for Rural Development to sanction additional 200 Water Sheds immediately under DDP to Anantapur District.