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Title : Need to include Bargarh district of Orissa under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which came into force on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 is having a perceptible impact in the districts where it is being implemented properly. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is an important step towards realizing the right to work, which is included in our Constitution as one of the Directive Principle. This scheme is being implemented in 200 of the poorest districts. But unfortunately, Bargarh Distt. In Orissa which is one of the poorest districts has not been included in the scheme in the first phase. More than 75% of the cultivable land in the district is non-irrigated, particularly, the Padampur sub division and Ambabhona, Bhatli, Bijepur, major portion of Barpalli and part of Bargarh and Attabira blocks Bargarh district are still without irrigation facilities. The whole of Padampur Sub division which is adjacent to the KBK Districts is a drought prone area and every year thousands of common villagers living below the poverty line and also small farmers migrate to other States to earn their livelihood because natural calamities like drought which is a common phenomenon there. No industry exists in the area nor any major or medium irrigation project is operating. In spite of this harsh reality, Bargarh Distt. has been excluded from the NREGA. I would, therefore, urge upon the Govt. of India to bring Bargarh Distt. under the coverage of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in the first phase.