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Title : Need to increase the assistance rate of Calamity Relief Fund to Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Orissa amounts of over 10 percent of paddy acreage and contributes about 7.5% of rice production in the country though hardly 30 percent of the cultivable land is under assured irrigation. But in this Kharif season Orissa is facing acute drought in many districts and farmers are in need of support. Presently, under the CRF norms, in the event of farmers suffering loss of more than 50% of the crop, assistance is provided at the rate of Rs.4000/- per hectare for areas under assured irrigation and only Rs. 3000/- per hectare for non-irrigated areas. This amount of assistance is very meagre and should atleast be increased to Rs. 10,000/- per hectare for irrigated and Rs. 5,000/- per hectare for non-irrigated areas. This will also necessitate increase in CRF corpus for the States including Orissa.

CRF assistance given to Orissa is not adequate. Even NCCF is not being provided to Orissa keeping the grave natural calamity in view. I urge upon the Government to increase the assistance rate of CRF at the earliest.