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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to Odisha for the drought situation prevailing in the state.

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on an important issue relating to my State of Odisha.

I would like to draw the attention of the Home Minister regarding the scorching heat wave in Odisha and drought situation in almost all the districts of the State. Yesterday, the maximum temperature in Titlagarh, a Western region of Odisha recorded more than 48 degree Celsius which is an all time high temperature in the month of April. The intolerable heat along with humidity in coastal regions of the State is also a cause of concern. This year, so far around 80 persons have died of heat and dehydration in the State. In the last financial year, there was 14 per cent deficit in rainfall causing 33 per cent of crop loss in my State for which our Chief Minister has demanded Rs.2,234 crore to compensate the loss. However, before disbursement of any amount by the Central Government to address the problem during 2015-16, we are at the doorstep of another drought-like situation. Hence, I would urge upon the Government to assess the situation in my State urgently and provide adequate financial assistance at the earliest in order to take suitable measures to address the problems caused by scorching heat wave and drought situation in my State of Odisha.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kulmani Samal.