

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding inclusion of Chitradurga district of Karnataka in the list of backward districts.

SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA (CHITRADURGA): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare towards the continuous drought conditions prevailing in the country as a whole and in some districts of Karnataka including Chitradurga district.

As per the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, drought means water shortage for human, cattle and agriculture consumption, resulting in economic losses, primarily in agriculture. It refers to a condition with rainfall deficit below 19 per cent of normal rainfall, thus failing to sustain moisture level of soil. In the past, about 100 districts in the country have suffered a drought like- situation.

The frequency is now increasing more in six States of India including Karnataka. As per that list, Chitradurga is one of the districts that figures in the list of drought prone districts in the State of Karnataka.

Now, under Article 371 J, there is special recognition in the Constitution of India for the six backward districts of Karnataka like Gulbarga, Yadgir, Raichur, Bidar, Koppal and Bellary. This special status has come as a boon to the region because of the establishment of a Dedicated Development Board.

I would urge upon the Union Government to include Chitradurga district in the list of backward districts of Karnataka under Article 371J so that this district also gets the benefit of development.

