

Regarding need for comprehensive measures for expansion of irrigation, completion of pending water projects and to ensure availability of potable drinking water in drought prone regions of Odisha-laid

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): I

wish to draw the attention of the Hon?ble Minister of Jal Shakti to the persistent problem of inadequate irrigation coverage and recurring drinking water scarcity in the drought-prone districts of western Odisha, including Bolangir, Sonepur, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Bargarh. Despite repeated droughts, erratic monsoon patterns, and increasing dependence of the rural population on agriculture and allied activities, large areas in these districts continue to remain rain-fed, with limited coverage under major, medium and minor irrigation projects. Delays in completion of irrigation infrastructure, poor canal utilisation, and inadequate last-mile connectivity have severely affected crop productivity, farmers' incomes, and livelihood security. At the same time, acute drinking water scarcity during summer months remains a recurring challenge, particularly in rural and tribal pockets, forcing dependence on tanker supply and distant sources. Groundwater depletion and inadequate surface water storage further aggravate the situation. The combined impact of irrigation deficit and drinking water stress has led to distress migration, agrarian vulnerability, and regional imbalance in development. I urge the Government to take urgent, time-bound measures to expand irrigation coverage, expedite pending water projects, strengthen water conservation and groundwater recharge, and ensure reliable drinking water supply in drought-prone western Odisha.