

Regarding demand for release of water from Ujani Dam into Manjra River/Dam and timely bank subsidy and MSP disbursement

SHRI BAJRANG MANOHAR SONWANE (BEED): Honourable Chairperson, I rise to present the plight of hundreds of thousands of farmers from the Beed district in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. Millions of farmers across Maharashtra—and indeed the vast majority of farmers in the Beed district—are currently enduring the severe hardships inflicted by drought. However, the situation today has become truly dire. On one hand, there is drought; on the other, excessive rainfall, unseasonal showers, and erratic weather—factors that can obliterate a farmer's entire year's worth of hard work in a mere instant. This is not merely a natural calamity; it constitutes a grave injustice being inflicted upon the farming community. Whether facing 'celestial' crises (natural disasters) or 'earthly' crises (administrative and systemic hardships), farmers find themselves relentlessly besieged on all fronts. Consequently, burdened by insurmountable debt, many farmers are driven to the tragic act of suicide.

Hon. Chairperson, given the prevailing drought conditions in my home district of Beed, there is an urgent and critical need for water. To address this requirement, the government had previously initiated a 'River-Linking Project' designed to divert water from the Ujani Dam in Solapur district to my district of Beed. In accordance with this project, I earnestly request that you direct the release of water from the Ujani Dam into the Manjra River, thereby replenishing the Manjra Dam.

Hon. Chairperson, furthermore, I request that the subsidies provided to farmers through banks be disbursed with immediate effect. Regarding the Minimum Support Price (MSP): while food grains—be it soybeans or maize—are indeed procured by the authorities, the farmers do not receive their payments in a timely manner. I urge that these payments be released promptly.

Hon. Chairperson, I would also like to make a personal request: you are invariably present in the House whenever I come up to speak. On the previous day, I waited until 7:00 PM for an opportunity to speak, yet I was not granted the chance to do so.

Hon. Chairperson, while there is an MSP applicable to sugar, the Government of Maharashtra has mandated the establishment of ethanol production units; however, these units are currently unable to access the 'Interest Subvention Scheme' (interest subsidy). I, therefore, place before you the demand that this financial assistance be made available to them without further delay.

Thank you.