

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding damage caused by river Bhagirathi in West Bengal-laid.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL (BARDHAMAN PURBA): I want to draw the kind attention of the Minister of Jal Shakti towards dredging of the river Ganga, blocking of the bank with the help of concrete, stones, boulders and nets by the side of the river Bhagirathi to protect the villages getting eroded due to river water under my parliamentary constituency in West Bengal, specially Agradweep Gram and Charbishnupur Gram area people residing by the side of the river are very badly affected and are facing very dangerous natural disaster and above 2000 habitants need to be relocated to Kalikapur Mouja falling under the same constituency and also residents of Katwa, Uddharanpur to Hooghly Triveni and Farakka to Dakhineswar under Katwa to Kalna spreading over about 100 km. several villages are at risk and almost 2 square kilometer area has been eroded by river water of Bhagirathi and several people have moved and are still moving to another place to save themselves. The people of the area are very poor and 80% to 90% of the people belong to SC, ST & OBC community and others are not able to rebuild their houses particularly those people who works on daily basis like farmers and labourers are in very miserable condition.

Further, the river water is gradually capturing and wiping out villages situated beside the river Bhagirathi. The habitants have no option of leaving their houses and fertile agricultural land which is their only source of income to survive. Beautiful houses, primary school buildings, temples, play grounds, Anganwadi centres etc. have been

eroded by the water of river Bhagirathi. More than two thousand people are in dire need of rehabilitation. It is suggested to take immediate step in this regard to block the river side with the help of concrete, stones boulders, net etc. so that thousands of lives could be saved.

Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister to control the damage and take necessary steps to lessen the natural destruction.