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Title: Need to include erosion of river banks in the category of National Calamity.

SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI (NOWGONG): Sir, Assam is in the grip of floods again. Floods will probably subside in a few days or in a week or two but it will leave behind a trail of devastations. In Assam, what will stay on is the year-long phenomenon of river bank erosions. What is very regrettable is that the river bank erosion is not considered as a calamity. The undercurrents of Brahmaputra are so strong that they hit the river banks like torpedoes. Unless the water is channelized, this is a problem. So, it should be mitigated and so also is erosion.

The recurring floods and erosion have caused a huge drainage on the precious resources of a small State like Assam, and that is why, this should be the responsibility of the Government of India. I would like to urge, through you, Sir, the Jal Shakti Ministry that it should treat the water management in a holistic manner. It should also include the riparian countries like China, Bhutan, Bangladesh on the one hand, and on the other hand, the riparian North-Eastern States like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur besides Assam. There should be a River Valley Authority and it should manage the water resources.

Sir, through you, I want to make one request that this should be the responsibility of the Government of India. I want to tell you that at a time when the rest of the country is reeling under water crisis, we could put up water refineries in Assam; we could construct pipelines; and we could give minimal *swachh* pure *paani*, Manasarovar's *paani*, to the rest of the country. My request to the Government of India, through you,

is that they should look after us and we will, in turn, take care of the rest.

Thank you, Sir.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : बहुत अच्छा सुझाव है ।

श्री गौरव गोगोई और श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा को श्री प्रद्युत बोरदोलोई द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।