

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Rejuvenation of East Coast Canal.

SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI (BALASORE): The East Coast Canal was dug by the British to transport food grains to the remote villages of Odisha and Bengal during the famine. ... (*Interruptions*) The people of surrounding villages were getting benefited by transporting agricultural products, food products and other daily necessities. It has served as a lifeline of the people for many years. ... (*Interruptions*) People have been using it for irrigation, agriculture, fish production and trade. During heavy rains, the rain water is drained through this canal. ... (*Interruptions*) In summer, Rabi crops could be irrigated from this canal. Acknowledging its importance, the Government of India has declared it as National Waterway-5. ... (*Interruptions*) As a result, people became hopeful about its rejuvenation. But gradually its condition became miserable. Out of a total of 623 km, 532 km flows in Odisha and the rest in Bengal. It passes through 8 districts of Odisha including Baleswar and Bhadrak. ... (*Interruptions*) Now, the flow of water has been obstructed due to the submergence of most of its areas. Due to the inability to drain the rainwater, the farmers and cattle are facing serious problems. Due to the lack of maintenance, the canals are filled with wild grass and mud and the pipes are blocked, causing a health hazard. ... (*Interruptions*) I have also been writing to the hon. Minister concerned repeatedly for its rejuvenation. Many people and organizations are also agitating. ... (*Interruptions*) The people of coastal Odisha benefited when it was restored. After restoration of this canal, grain, betel leaf, fish, coal, stone, foodstuffs and other goods could be transported at a lower cost.

The road would be less crowded, the fishermen will be benefited, and drainage of flood water would be easy. ... (*Interruptions*) Farmers will be benefitted from irrigation. I am appealing to the government through you to restore it soon. ... (*Interruptions*)

माननीय सभापति: माननीय सदस्य, आपने उड़िया का नोटिस नहीं दिया है।

... (व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति: सारंगी जी, आपने उड़िया में बोलने का नोटिस नहीं दिया है। आपका जो पाठ है, वह अंग्रेजी में है। It is in English. इसलिए, आपका उड़िया पाठ अंग्रेजी में नहीं जा सकता। You have not given any notice regarding that. Please read it in English only.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI: I have given notice in Odia. हमने उड़िया का नोटिस दिया है। ...(व्यवधान) मैंने नोटिस उड़िया के लिए दिया है। कल ही मैंने इसे लिखकर दिया है। ...(व्यवधान) I can read it in English, but I have given notice in Odia.