

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Flood and Erosion in Malda and Marshidabad Districts in West Bengal.**13.00hrs.**

SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOWDHURY (MALDAHA DAKSHIN): Sir, I wish to draw your kind attention towards the issues of utmost importance related to my Parliamentary constituency of Malda and Murshidabad. The issue relates to the problem of flood and erosion caused by Ganga river that has been causing huge damages in Malda and Murshidabad. It has wreaked havoc for the last many years on both sides of the Ganga river in my constituency. The river has changed its course and has moved 35 kilometres towards the town of Malda resulting in lakhs of people losing their homes, fertile land, and their livelihood. The areas affected by erosion and flooding are very densely populated. In Murshidabad district, Samsherganj, Dhuliyani, Hussainpur, Diyara, Neemtita, and in Malda district, Bhutni, Manichak, Birnagar and Gopalpur, all these areas have been completely wiped out. All the massive buildings have submerged into the river. People of these areas are homeless and have no food and money.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. I think it is the last sentence.

SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOWDHURY: The nature of erosion is that if you go the next day after the erosion, you will see nothing. The UPA Government considered it a natural disaster and the UPA Government did the best along with the State Government. The Present Central Government only takes care of 10 kms from the Farakka Barrage. The State Government is supposed to look after beyond 10 kms. The history of the State Government is that it has no funds and no capacity to encounter the disaster. The Central Government and the State Government will have to come forward jointly in a big way to deal with this disaster.