

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding protection of the people in Katwa, West Bengal from erosion of river banks.-laid

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL (BARDHAMAN PURBA): I want to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti with respect to 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 eroded due to extension of river water in Katwa under my Parliamentary Constituency in West Bengal. Agradweep Gram and Charbishnupur Gram area people residing by the side of the river have been very badly affected and are facing very dangerous natural disasters and also raises the need to relocate above 2000 habitants to Kalikapur Mouja and Katwa, Uddharanpur to Hooghly Triveni and Farakka to Dakhineswar under Katwa to Kalna (approximately 100 kms). Several villages are at risk and almost 2 square kilometer area has been eroded by water of river Bhagirathi and several people have moved and are still moving to another places to save themselves. The people of the area are very poor. 80% to 90% of the people belong to SC, ST and OBC community and are not able to rebuild their houses particularly those people who work on daily basis like farmers and labours.

Further, the river water is gradually capturing and wiping out villages situated beside the river Bhagirathi. The habitants have no option other than 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 etc. have been eroded by the river Bhagirathi. More than two thousand people are in dire need of rehabilitation. I suggest the Government to take immediate steps 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.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to take up necessary step immediately in this regard.