

Title: Need to formulate a National Scheme to dredge all major river-beds particularly in Orissa.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, Orissa is facing persistent floods in cyclic order which has brought havoc in the State. Though there are embankments to protect habitations, heavy floods cause breaches resulting in huge damages to life and property. Attempts have been made to check erosion of soil, specially in the catchment area but it has yielded little result. Every year, the river -beds of Orissa are being filled-up by silt and sand which compounds the misery by not carrying as much water as it is supposed to carry.

During flood, the situation becomes more grim because the river mouths also do not discharge adequate water to the sea because the mouths are also invariably closed.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to dredge the river-beds of Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Subarnarekha and Rusikulya regularly. As Orissa Government is not in a position to dredge the river-beds, I urge upon the Union Government of India to come out with a National Scheme to dredge all major river -beds which cause flood havoc in the coastal States of the country.