

Title: Need for a 'Damodar Action Plan' to dredge out silt and sand in Damodar Barrage.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): In order to save thousands of acres of agricultural lands in the districts of Bankura and Burdwan on the bank of Damodar River, Durgapur barrage was conceived over Damodar River in the year 1957, with an object to store water in the rainy season and to distribute water for irrigation in the dry season. But since its inception, no action, whatsoever, has been taken to dredge the silt at the catchment area of Damodar river, as a result, the holding capacity has gone down to a great extent. In the year 1978, the people who used to live in the embankment of Damodar river had witnessed an unprecedented flood. Not only the barrage collapsed and thousands of areas of agricultural lands were submerged, but also huge layers of sand were left on the agricultural land, thus damaging the fertility of lands perpetually. In the last week of September 1995, villages namely Kuldiha, Pingrui, Madhapur, Napara, Metali under Maliara G.P., did face such a problem, and again in the year 1999 September, we witnessed that the right canal of Durgapur barrage which has a syphonic system for flowing water from Maliara jore bandh to a channel of Metali village under Maliara G.P., that channel was completely washed out as a result thousands of areas of land of Metali village again submerged. So syphonic system should be immediately expanded for flow of water. In the district of Bankura, on the bank of Damodar river from Mijia to Metali and from Pakharna to Patrasayer Panchayat Samity via. Rangamati the poor agricultural labourers thrown out of employment for ever. The West Bengal Government has come out with a limited resource.

I demand immediate action plan for regular dredging of the silt and sands, deposited for years in the catchment area of Damodar and feeder canals of Durgapur barrage.

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