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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Orissa to restore creek irrigation in Kendrapara and areas close to Bay of Bengal coast. – Laid.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (KENDRAPARA) : I had raised the subject matter of creek irrigation under Rule 377 on 18th April, 2001. In reply, the Minister of Water Resources assured that Creek Irrigation in Aul, Rajkanika, Rajnagar, Mohakalpara and Pattamundai Blocks of Kendrapara District can find 100% financial assistance. The assurance remains unfulfilled till today.

There has been all round scarcity of irrigation in the State of Orissa. The situation is aggravated in the face of drought when agricultural land turns arid and standing crops resultantly succumb to lack of rainfall, rendering the small time agriculturists penniless and exposed to starvation. While not denying the Ministry of Water Resources approving the scheme for arresting salinity ingress through ground water recharge in the districts of Badrak, Kendrapara and Puri in Orissa, nevertheless small time farmers are facing starvation in Rajkanika Block of my district, Kendrapara. Although detailed estimate for renovation of creeks with its plan showing creek irrigation project in Rajkanika Block was submitted to Ministry in July, 2001, the proposal, so far remains shelved.

I request the Central Government to provide financial assistance to Government of Orissa to restore Creek Irrigation in areas close to the coast of Bay of Bengal and inclusion of Rajkanika, Rajnagar, Pattamundai and Mohakalpara Blocks in Kendrapara District for creek irrigation.