

Title: Need to provide financial assistance to Govt. of Orissa to restore creek irrigation in areas close to the Coast of Bay of Bengal-Laid.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (KENDRAPARA) : The irrigation facilities are totally absent in Rajkanika, Raj Nagar, Aul and Patamundai areas of Kendrapara district which are close to the coast of Bay of Bengal in Orissa. The agricultural field in these areas is being irrigated only through creeks linked to rivers namely Kharasrota, Brahmani and Baitarani. But the creeks are now silting up at the fast rate. Planning Commission has made a provision of fund to deal with the problems of the siltation and Central Government had made the allocation of fund for the purpose in 1996. But after the recent drought and super cyclone in October, 1999 the creek system is virtually in defunct conditions. Since the creek irrigation is the only answer to the provision of irrigation facilities in these areas, I demand that adequate funds be sanctioned to restore creek irrigation by desilting and putting sluice gates so that the tidal water entering into the creek is blocked and used for irrigation purposes.