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Title: Request the government to clear the safe drinking water projects sent by the Govt. of Orissa immediately.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, there is a severe scarcity of drinking water in Orissa. Out of 314 blocks, about 190 blocks are water stressed. Most of the blocks not only in the Western parts of Orissa consisting of Kalahandi, Nuapada, Koraput, Bolangir, districts etc. but also the coastal Orissa consisting of districts like Balesore, Cuttack, Puri, Bhadrak, Jajpur, etc. are water stressed. The watershed management programme is virtually a non-starter in Orissa. The money that was given by the World Bank for funding this irrigation project in Orissa was swindled by the previous Government of Orissa. The CBI is going to conduct an inquiry for that.

My request to the Government of India is that it should strictly monitor the watershed projects. I would also request that the safe drinking water projects which were sent to the Central Government by the Government of Orissa should be cleared immediately. The Government of India should provide money and sanction additional grants to the Government of Orissa for sinking tubewells for the ensuing summer season.