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Title:Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of West Bengal for the relief and reconstruction work in the flood-affected areas of the State.

SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN (CONTAI): In the month of July 2008, the East Medinipur and West Medinipur districts of West Bengal faced severe flood. The area of Bhagwanpur, Patanpur, Chandipur, Ramnagar, Contai P.S. area within Purba-Medinipur districts and Sabong Pingla, Narayangarh P.S. area within Paschim Medinipur had been totally devastated due to heavy rainfall and sudden release of excess water from Jharkhand. People of the two districts fell in great distress in all respects. More than 50 people died and more than 10 lacs Kachcha houses were destroyed. Roads, village roads and connecting roads were totally destroyed and crops were damaged. The State Government had been trying for reconstruction. This is happening regularly every year or every alternate year. This flood can be prevented if the riverbed of Kaliaghai, Baghai and Kapaleswari rivers are cleared of silt and mud. In this regard a D.P.R had also been sent to the Central Government recently.

I draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources to give financial assistance to the West Bengal for the above works.