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Title: Need to declare Sardar Sarovar Dam Project on Narmada River in Gujarat as 'National Project'?

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue of our State, that is the issue of declaration of Sardar Sarovar Dam Project on Narmada River in Gujarat as a 'National Project' by the Government of India.

Sardar Sarovar Dam Project on Narmada River in Gujarat and its canal are the life line for the people of Gujarat. This Project is also very much important for three other States, that is, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.

In our country, many similar projects have been declared as 'National Projects'. Declaration of this Project as a 'National Project', it is the demand of the Government of Gujarat and the people of Gujarat before the Government of India. But I fail to understand why the Government of India is not declaring this Project as a 'National Project' even though the people of Gujarat are agitating on this issue. It is a long-standing demand because the Sardar Sarovar Dam can irrigate the dry areas of my constituency, that is Kutch and north Gujarat where there is also such demand. If this project is not being declared as a 'National Project', then why many other such projects have been declared as 'National Projects' by the Government of India?

So, my only demand, through you, to the Government of India, is that the Sardar Sarovar Dam Project on Narmada River in Gujarat be declared as a 'National Project'.