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Title: Need to declare Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri as most backward districts in Maharashtra and include them under the 'National Food for Work' programme.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (RAJAPUR): Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri are most backward districts in Maharashtra. There are no employment opportunities here. People of these two districts are forced to migrate to other areas in search of livelihood. Sindhudurg is an important tourist centre. There are abundant horticultural products also in the two districts. However, there are no proper irrigation facilities available here.

I urge upon the Government to declare the two districts as most backward districts and include them under the 'National Food for Work Programme'. Further, adequate financial assistance may be provided for development of these two districts. The development of Sindhudurg as an important tourist centre will also create adequate employment opportunities in the region.