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Title: Need to persuade the Government of Jharkhand for installation of gates at the dams on North Koel and Batane rivers.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): I invite the attention of the Minister of Water Resources towards the state of irrigation facility in my constituency Aurangabad in South Bihar. For a large part it has a fairly good network of canals, feeders and distributaries but they are all rainfed. It lacks a suitable system to supply water for irrigation if and when monsoon fails. It failed last year leading to severe drought there causing great distress all round and to the farmers in particular. North Koel and Batane rivers, that originate in the Chhotanagpur plateau in Jharkhand, feed the network of canals. Both lack an arrangement to store water in reservoirs. No gate exists at the dam on North Koel to help store water. The existing gate at the dam on the Batane river has been made non-functional by the local people. Despite the utter essentiality of construction of these two gates, there has been a long-standing dispute between Bihar and Jharkhand governments over the modalities of their construction.

The Minister of Water Resources deserves our compliments for finally ending this dispute by bringing about an agreement between the two states about installation of gates at these dams which would have been a permanent guarantee against drought. But the Jharkhand government has now backtracked.

The Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources is requested to again take the initiative to persuade the Government of Jharkhand to cooperate in the installation of these gates.