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Title : Need to release the Central Government's share to the North Bengal State Transport Corporation for the current year.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (COOCH BEHAR): The North Bengal State Transport Corporation was established on 15th April 1960 under the Road Transport Corporation Act, 1950. At the time of its formation the Government of India had agreed that the contribution by the State and Central Government would be in the ratio of 2:1. Later on 1st April 1983 the contribution to the Corporation was subsequently transferred from the Ministry of Railway to the Ministry of Shipping and Transport. From the year 1960-61 to 1986-87 the capital contribution provided by the Central Government is to the tune of Rs. 4,82,51,500.00. From the year 1987-88 onwards there is irregularity in the contribution of Central Government and further it was fully stopped by the Central Government from the year 1992-93. As per the agreement, Central Government has to give the Central Share but instead it is fully stopped and due to the Corporation is not able to run and it is on the verge of closure. This North Bengal State Transport Corporation is the only industry in North Bengal and the Central Government should save it. Sir, I strongly, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Surface Transport and request him to take up this very important issue and release the Central Share for the current year to the North Bengal State Transport Corporation immediately and also request him to clear the backlog i.e. the Central Share for the earlier years, at the earliest.