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Title: Need to expedite the work on National Coastal Protection Project as per the proposal of State Government of Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB(CUTTACK): Orissa has a coast line of 476.40 km. The super cyclone of 1999 had inundated approximately 2 lakh hectares of land due to tidal surge. Even in normal years tidal ingress through rivers are common. Though Government of Orissa have constructed 1517 kms of saline embankment in order to protect these areas from tidal action there is more to be done. The sea-face of the coast is subject to constant erosion due to tidal surge and literal drift, which poses a constant danger to the inhabitants.

I would urge upon the Government to expedite the proposal submitted before Central Water Commission by Government of Orissa for construction of National Coastal Protection Project of Rs. 361 crore. As Orissa Government does not have resources to tackle the recurring problems and manage its infrastructure. I would urge upon the Government to implement food for work programme on a larger scale, on a regular basis in the coastal area of Orissa, NFCR and COR grant be enhanced considering Orissa as cyclone and flood ravaged State. There is a need to raise and strengthen the flood embankments from flood mitigation and drainage congestion problem in 9000 sq. Kms. delta region and coastal protection work need to be taken up through centrally funded schemes and programmes.