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Title: Need to address the problem of shortage of drinking water in district Murshidabad, West Bengal.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): The district Murshidabad in West Bengal consists of the population of more than 60 lacs. The river 'Bhagirathi' is flowing through the district virtually dissecting the district into two halves. On the eastern part, the area is contaminated with 'Arsenic' while in the Western, part people are experiencing acute water shortage due to the sharp fall of 'Aquifer level'. During Summer season the water shortage comes to such a pass that people are compelled to collect water from whatever sources unmindful of its health hazards.

Even urban areas of western part of the district are not spared from the excruciating shortage of water. 'Kandi' is an urban area which is known for its age old habitation and rich history needs regular piped water supply as the city is on the verge of 'water famine'. It is easy to supply drinking water to the water starved city by installing water treatment plant on the bank of river 'Bhagirathi' which is a few Kms. away from the City 'Kandi'.

It is my earnest request to the concerned Ministry to take the initiative as early as possible to quench the thirst of the people of 'Kandi' and adjoining areas.