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Title: Regarding siltation in the Damodar River-bed.

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL (KATWA): Sir, I do recall that the Members of the Standing Committee on Water Resources while on a Study Tour to Durgapur Barrage of Damodar River expressed their utter worry seeing the critical siltation problems in the surface of Damodar on 12th February 2007. The Committee held a meeting with the engineers of West Bengal State Irrigation & Waterways Department, Central Water Commission and Damodar Valley Corporation to discuss the same.

I understood that Barrage engineers were not in favour of desiltation since the works of desiltation would be much expensive. But it is a matter of great concern that the siltation will cause crisis in water supply to Durgapur city in one hand and inundation on the other in near future. Also it would fail to supply irrigation water for the surrounding areas of river bank for cultivation. The Standing Committee asked the State engineers to make a Detail Project Report (DPR) and send the same to the Central Water Resources Department. But the DPR has not been sent by them.

I would also like to inform the House that the Chairman, Standing Committee on Water Resources drew attention with sorrow in the meeting held on 07.01.2008 regarding not having been made the DPR. The Secretary and other officers of the Ministry present in the meeting told the hon. Members that they would look into the matter urgently. But it is a matter of great sadness that nothing has been done till date.

I therefore urge upon the Ministry of Water Resources, in the Government of India to take immediate action regarding the same.