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Title : Need to take immediate steps to control flood and erosion caused by river Ganges in Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal.

SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY(MALDAHA DAKSHIN): I would like to draw the attention of the government towards the problems of erosion and flood that Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal have been suffering from for a long time. The Government of India has taken the responsibility for checking erosion and flood control in the area and has declared it to be a national disaster. The erosion control work is being done by Farakka Barrage, a project under the Ministry of Water Resources.

The Ganga as it comes from Rajmahal hills, enters the plains and flows to the left of Malda district and causes heavy erosion and flooding. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless, mango orchards, green fields etc. have been destroyed and people have become destitute because of erosion and flooding. The Ganga river causes major damage in Malda and Murshidabad districts, but the problem has been completely neglected.

Following steps need to be taken without any delay:

1. The upstream of Ganga such as Manikchak Ghat up to Bhutni Char in Malda and Dhulian in Murshidabad need to be immediately repaired.
2. Flood and erosion control work in Simultala has been done but only two kilometers ahead at Hussainpur, the Ganga has begun to cause havoc.

Recently, it has been noticed that while the flood control work starts in one area, the Ganga river changes its course at a little distance away and causes havoc there. I feel, at present, the Farakka Barrage Project which is looking after the control of erosion and flooding in Malda, is not well equipped in terms of either manpower or resources. They need more engineers and funds to manage the problem of erosion and flood control in Malda and Murshidabad.

It is my request to the Central Government to kindly take immediate steps to ameliorate the sufferings of the people who have suffered immensely because of erosion and floods in Malda.