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Title: Need for de-silting of Brahmani and Birupa rivers in Odisha.

SHRI MOHAN JENA (JAJPUR): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards two important Rivers of my State which have dried out due to huge sand deposits on their beds.

Sir, river Brahmani is the second largest river of Odisha. It bifurcates into two branches, that is, Brahmani and Kharasrota near Jenapur of my constituency. It is pertinent to mention here that, in the pre-Independence era, two barrages were constructed by the British Government, one at Jenapur in the Brahmani stream and another at Jokadia in the Kharasrota stream.

The barrage at Jenapur has been swallowed by heaps of sands. At present, there is no sign of barrage or anicut at Jenapur. Due to this reason, the river bed starting from Jenapur to Kaipada, a distance of about 80 kilometres is full of sand, small plants and grass. It is completely dead now. It affects more than two lakh inhabitants on either side of the river. The lift irrigation point constructed on either side of the river, the tube wells and thousands of ponds have turned dry. People are not getting minimum quantity of water to irrigate their agriculture lands and for their domestic consumption due to acute shortage of water. The condition of the river Birupa is more vulnerable than that of Brahmani. It has also turned dry due to sand deposit. The death of river Birupa is also affecting lakhs of people of two districts, namely. Cuttack and Jajpur.

In the last Consultative Committee meeting of the Ministry of Water Resources, I had raised this issue before the Committee and the hon. Minister had given instructions to the officers of the Central Water Commission to study the situation of the rivers Birupa and Brahmani by a technical team. But it is a matter of regret that no action has been taken by the Government or by the CWC in this regard till today.

So, I demand immediate action to save the rivers Brahmani and Birupa.