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Title: Need to relook into the issue of sharing of Teesta River water between India and Bangladesh.

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT): West Bengal has two parts one is South part of West Bengal another is North part of West Bengal. The status of development of Northern part is similar to the one prevailing in the North Eastern Region of India. I would like to draw your kind attention to a matter of great national interest. It is related to the sharing of the Teesta River water between India and Bangladesh. Teesta River has its origin in the Himalaya and flows through Sikkim, Northern part of West Bengal and Bangladesh. Length of more than two-third of Teesta River is in India and only one portion of it flows in Bangladesh. It is the lifeline of Northern West Bengal.

Bangladesh is our neighbouring country. We have a good relationship with Bangladesh. In 1971, the then Chief Minister of West Bengal had drawn a comprehensive Teesta Barrage Project, duly sanctioned by the Planning Commission of India in 1975 for all round economic development of the Northern part of West Bengal which depends on agriculture. In case, the Central Government decides to release more water of the River Teesta to Bangladesh than its genuine eligibility, it will create hardship to our people of the region. I have already raised this issue in the Lok Sabha on 24.08.2011.

In view of the above, I would urge to have a widespread consensus of the West Bengal State Government and all political parties of the State in the above matter to arrive at a fair and justifiable decision.