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Title: Need to protect the interests of people of West Bengal while making Teesta water-sharing agreement with Bangladesh.

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT): The West Bengal has two parts. One is South Bengal and other is North Bengal which is most backward. North Bengal's economy depends on Agriculture. There is no industry. North Bengal has 6 districts. There is a river name Teesta which originates from Sikkim and flows between Silliguri, Jalpaiguri and also Rangpur in Bangladesh and meets with Bay of Bengal. Much before the birth of Bangladesh, responding the growing agitation for Teesta water for agriculture benefit in North Bengal, Teesta Barrage project were taken up by the West Bengal Government and the Planning Commission of India accorded its clearance on May 8th, 1975. The work started in 1976 with a time frame upto 2015 for its completion. Now, the Teesta Barrage has started to supply water for irrigation in Jalpaiguri, Darjiling and Uttar Dinajpur districts. According to International law, Bangladesh would get the share of Teesta water. Bangladesh is our neighbour country and we have good relations with Bangladesh. We are not opposed to our Central Government making any legitimate gesture of generosity for the benefit of the people of Bangladesh. If the water share is 48:52, then at least one crore people of North Bengal would have to face starvation. So, I request the Central Government, before taking a decision in this regard, the Government of West Bengal and elected representatives of North Bengal region should be consulted.