

>

Title : Regarding navigability in Haldia Port in West Bengal.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT) : Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Central Government to an important matter of urgent public importance. The issue is the navigability of the port of Haldia. We are all aware that this year is a year of near-drought; the rate of rainfall is extremely low; the ground water table is going down speedily. Therefore, there is no tide in the sea and the navigability of Haldia port has gone down drastically. The smaller ships only are somehow entering the port. We all know that flow tide and ebb depend on the change of season. During the monsoon, there is high tide and high navigability; during the winter months, both tide and navigability become low. Thus I request the Government to undertake the work of dredging immediately and save the port. Not Only in West Bengal, but in the entire Eastern India, this port is very important in as far as export - import are concerned. Starting from edible oil, petroleum, diesel, cooking gas, raw materials for industries are transported through the port and also exported to foreign countries. So the entire economic activities of West Bengal and Eastern India are on the verge of collapse. If the port does not function properly then there will be huge loss and the economy will suffer tremendously. This is matter of national concern and through you, madam, I request the Government to take good care of Haldia port and take concrete steps to increase its navigability. With these words, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and conclude.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.