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Title: Need to save rivers in the country.

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT) : Respected Chairman Sir, we are all aware that rivers play a very significant role in the development and prosperity of any country. But recently, it can be observed that in the name of development, the water bodies and forests are being mercilessly wiped out which is leading to unwanted changes in the ecology. Global warming is taking place and the rivers and lakes are drying up. Pollution is also on the rise. This may have an adverse impact on humankind in near future.

The same thing is happening in India also. Deforestation is rampant; water resources are being exploited and forest dwellers are being displaced. The Government of India and the corporate sector are very much involved in these malpractices.

In my district, South Dinajpur of West Bengal, the rivers are dying down because they are dry. As a result, there is increasing environmental pollution on one hand and the entire agriculture sector is collapsing on the other hand. Pollution and dry water sources always have a negative impact on cultivation. I urge upon the Government to find ways to arrest the environmental degradation. Otherwise, agricultural activities may suffer immense losses. For this purpose, inter-linking of all the rivers of the country must be done so that supply of water to the fields can be continued. Otherwise, if no measure is adopted, we will not be able to save our environment and ecological imbalance might sound the death knell for the Indian agriculture sector.

You have allowed me to raise this matter of public importance in this august house and I am thankful to you sir.