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Title: Need to consult the Government of West Bengal on proposed Teesta river water sharing agreement between India and Bangladesh.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : I request that I maybe permitted to raise a matter of urgent public importance during 'Zero Hour' in the House today.

With your permission, I would raise an issue as follows. There are different stands on water pacts with Pakistan and Bangladesh by the Centre. Rigid on Indus Treaty Change, the Government is pushing for Teesta Pact.

This week, India demonstrated two very different approaches towards sharing water resources with its neighbours. Pakistan will have to live with the fact that India plans to continue utilization of its allocation under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), as it refused to countenance any change of design of the Miyardam in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, on the Bangladesh front, the Modi Government is working hard to conclude the Teesta water sharing agreement with Sheikh Hasina's Government. Unperturbed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's statement expressing deep concern for not having been consulted on the proposed Teesta water-sharing agreement between India and Bangladesh, the Centre has said that stakeholders would be consulted at the right time in the spirit of 'cooperative federalism'. A Government spokesman said that just as the Centre and the State had collaborated during the land boundary agreement, there would be consultations here too. Kumari Banerjee, the Chief Minister said:

"She was told that the signing of the Teesta treaty would be on May 25, following the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister, Ms. Sheikh Hasina on April 7-10. Other north-eastern State CMs have been invited to the signing but not her."

She also said:

"I have very good relations with Sheikh Hasina. I also took initiative in resolving the Chhitmahal (the enclaves problem) concerning land boundary and exchange of enclaves issue with Bangladesh Government. But when it comes to protecting the interest of Bengal, I will not put my seal on any treaty without knowing what it is about."

The Centre is directly interacting with the District Magistrates through video conference. Why the Centre is bypassing the State Government – the CM asked. I strongly protest against this attitude of the Centre of going behind the back of the State Government for an international agreement and we strongly protest if there is any attempt to sign the Teesta Treaty without the consent of the West Bengal Government.

Madam, all the MPs from the Trinamool Congress is associating with this view. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rajeev Satav is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Saugata Roy.