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Title: Need to allocate separate funds for providing better infrastructure for water-supply in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL): I would like to raise an important issue regarding drinking water crisis in Indian cities particularly in Bengaluru. It is a matter of great concern that people of Bengaluru are facing severe problem of water shortage. Population of Bengaluru is growing and its area is expanding beyond 800 square kilometre. Since Bengaluru is famous for its IT hub and pleasant weather, people not only from various parts of our country but also from every nook and corner of the world are living in the city. I am of the opinion that due to inadequate attention paid to develop better infrastructure for water supply, most of our Indian cities have poor water supply system. Another reason which is causing the problem is that most cities have a high percentage of non-revenue water (NRW). About 20 to 50 percent water loss in Indian cities is a big challenging factor as far as water shortage is concerned. State Governments and urban local bodies are responding to the growing incidence of these water wars by signing up expensive water supply projects to bring in more and more water into the cities from the hinterlands, sometimes from as far as 150 to 200 kms away. However, due to financial crunch it is very difficult for the State Government to provide infrastructure to expanding cities like Bengaluru.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to allocate separate funds for Bengaluru to provide better infrastructure for water supply. I would also like to suggest that the Government should prepare a road map to ensure adequate water supply to people of urban, semi-urban and rural areas and take steps to put an end to water loss due to leakage of broken pipes and lack of infrastructure.