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Title: Need to address the problem of drinking water in Balasore Parliamentary Constituency, Odisha.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, due to the presence of mineral deposits and long coast line, major water quality problems are encountered in ground water sources in Odisha in general and Balasore in particular. Iron is found in all districts in different degrees. Chloride (salinity) is found in the coastal districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Puri and Ganjam.

Balasore, Basta and Baliapal blocks fall under low lying and flood prone areas having 90,576 hectares of land which constitutes 24 per cent of geographical land of Balasore District. Basta, Bahanaga, Baliapal, Bhograi, Remuna and Soro C and D blocks under Balasore District are having saline soil group and 75,489 hectares of land constitute 20 per cent of geographical land of the District.

Balasore is one of the most natural disaster-prone districts of Odisha. Flood, cyclone and drought regularly devastate the source of drinking water in the district. There are 93 Gram Panchayats out of a total of 289 panchayats of Balasore District which are flood prone and 76 villages are Tsunami prone.

Only 38.74 per cent of the total habitations are provided drinking water through rural water supply covering only 13.43 per cent of the total population of the district of Balasore.

Hence, I request the Government of India to kindly consider providing safe drinking water through Mega Piped Water Supply Project and also set up a water treatment plant at source.