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Title: Need to concretise the embankment from Cuttack to Chaumauhani along river Mahanadi in Odisha and also to initiate mangroves plantation along the river banks nearer the river mouth.

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Flood in river Mahanadi in Odisha is a recurrent phenomenon. Heavy rains during monsoon period as well as un-seasonal cyclonic rains cause flood in river Mahanadi subsequently making breaches in embankment along both sides of river. Almost every year, the low lying areas along the river Mahanadi in my Parliamentary Constituency namely Tirtol, Rahama, Kujang, Singitali, chaumauhani, Luhagarha, Balidiha, etc. face the fury of flood because of breaches in embankment. It is a matter of concern that the breaches in embankment cause more casualties as well as loss of property since it occur suddenly thereby making the people helpless. Though the weak portions of the embankment along the river are renovated by putting sand filled pockets in phased manner especially before the occurrence of flood, still that is not the permanent solution to keep the embankment intact. A huge farm at Kujang has already lost almost all of its area due to encroachment of river and only the plantation can save the same. I would like to mention further that Essar Steel and IFFCO established along the riverbank of Mahanadi are affected severely as the industrial area get submerged by the water of Mahanadi during flood. Since, Luhagarha and Balidiha villages, Essar Steel and IFFCO are close to the river mouth and the way the river is encroaching into the nearby areas, the same may totally be merged in Bay of Bengal in course of time if plantation, particularly mangroves plantation is not made in the river bank along these areas. In this regard, I would like to urge upon the Government that the weak portions of the embankment along the river from Cuttack to Chaumauhani be concretized along with the plantation on embankment and the area nearer to the river mouth be planted with mangroves plantation in order to reduce the magnitude of the floods and the severity of its impact in the region.