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Title: Need to undertake dredging in Ichhamati river in West Bengal.

DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANAGHAT): I want to draw the attention of the Central Government to a long pending demand of almost 20-30 lakh people residing on both the sides of the river Churni and Ichhamati. The reactivation specially dredging is extremely necessary for river Ichhamati in West Bengal to increase its navigability, better drainage and flood management to save the lives of people. The bank erosion is assuming dangerous dimension causing huge loss of agricultural crops, property, and lives of people residing on both the sides of the river Churni and Ichhamati from Majdia (Pabakhali Village), Nadia to Hasnabad, 24-PGS (N).

The Mathabanga river originates from Bangladesh and enters into India through Nadia District and it is bifurcated near Majdia, falling under my constituency, Ranaghat, creating two branches namely Ichhamati and Churni. After traversing a length of 19.5 KM in India, the river Ichhamati enters into Bangladesh near Fatehpur – Mubarakpur. In the course of its journey, the Ichhamati joins the Jamuna at Tippi in 24- PGS (N), the western branch called Churni flows west of Ranaghat, Cahkdaha, and Payradanga. Previously, dredging had been completed between Barnaberia and Kalanchi on Indo-Bangladesh border. And again dredging is necessary between Fatehpur and Dattapulua via Mubarakpur in Nadia district in India. If the proposed dredging between Fatehpur and Dattapulua via Mubarakpur is not executed, the earlier dredging will be of no use. By dredging you not only give life to the river, but also ensure the lives of all living beings nearby.

Therefore, I would hope and expect that the government would undertake to clear up off-take point at Pabakhali, Majdia, Nadia, dredging in the river up to Dattapulua to save the river Ichhamati and also the off-take point of the river Jamuna to link it up with the Bhagirathi (Ganges).