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Title: Need to repair and strengthen the embankment of Rajabandha tank in Raibania and Jaleswar regions of Odisha.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Madam Speaker, I had a very typical and unusual problem to face while I was in my Parliamentary Constituency during last Saturday and Sunday.

A group of very senior people from eight Panchayats, where about 1.5 lakh population live, came with a very, very serious problem. They said: "सांसद महोदय, हमें आपकी मदद चाहिए।" Then, I asked as to what *madad* they require. They said: "Our sons are not able to get married. Nobody is willing to give their daughters to our sons in this locality." मैंने पूछा इसके लिए सांसद क्या कर सकता है और समस्या क्या है? उन्होंने बताया : "समस्या यह है कि हमारे पास पानी नहीं है। When we dug the bore well even up to 1000 feet, 1200 feet, no water is coming. Hence nobody is willing to give their daughters for the marriage of our sons."

Madam Speaker, so, water is such a serious crisis. It is not only affected my Parliamentary Constituency of Balasore, not only our State but the whole country.

I would urge upon the Union Government to immediately consider to bring water in the Concurrent List from the State List. While this can continue, I would urge upon the Union Government to favour us with three water supply projects, which are immediately required.

Firstly, provide a water supply projects to all the eight Gram Panchayats, from where people came. They are Rusulpur, Inchuri, Jaydev Kasba, Padampur, Gudu and others. These water supply projects may be given from the nearby river, which is at a distance of 25 kilometres.

Madam, it is a very, very serious problem and it needs to be addressed.

Secondly, there is a need for construction of a major irrigation project in Badasahi Block in river Gangadhar so that about 1.5 lakh tribal population, who live in the area, get benefit for their agriculture and drinking water.

Thirdly, there is a need for construction of an irrigation project by drawing water from nearby river Subarnarekha by recovering and renovating Raja Bandha Tank in Raibania area of Jaleswar block, which has been a consistent victim for the last several years in drought, so that people of that area get the benefits.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.