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Title: Need to review the decision to shift the Research Wing for safeguarding the fish species, from Burla, Odisha to other state.

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to one of the problems being faced in my State Odisha.

There were 183 species of fish available in the Hirakud Reservoir which is situated in my constituency Sambalpur. The height of this reservoir is 630 feet and water is stored in 74,059 hectares which is spread over five districts. Due to the presence of 183 fish species, the Government of India set up a research unit there and it was working in Hirakud since 1957. Now, about six months back the Government of India has shifted this research institute to other state from Hirakud and due to this the number of fish species has drastically come down to only 73 varieties and production of fish also has reduced by thousands of tonnes per day. So, my point is, unless this research institute is brought back to Hirakud or a new research institute is set up there, this huge fall in the quantum of fish production will continue. I would like to inform that this decision to shift this institute was processed during the tenure of the then Agriculture Minister. I was not a Member of Parliament then. But I am thankful to him that due to his intervention this decision to shift this institute was stayed and now the Government has implemented that decision and this institute has been shifted.

So, I request the Government, through you, that this institute should be re-opened at Hirakud or a new research institute should be set up for this purpose.