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Title: Need to reconsider decision to exclude Watershed projects from Central Assistance -laid.

**SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (BEHRAMPUR):** Odisha is predominately rain fed state and 310 Watershed Projects were sanctioned under PMKSY —Watershed Development from 2009 to 2015 with an outlay of Rs. 2194.12 crore. 65 and 62 projects in batch — I and II were administratively closed. 68 and 39 projects of batch — III and IV sanctioned in 2011 to 2013 will be closed in March 2020. However, remaining projects of batch V and VI have been excluded from Central Assistance. This has not only affected these projects but also affected the smooth completion of 761 WMP watershed projects in Odisha. No new projects were sanctioned from 2015—16. There are a number of projects in State and in Ganjam, Gajpati Districts projects will be struck.

I request the Government to reconsider the decision of excluding watershed projects from Central Assistance and also sanction funds for repair, renovation and reconstruction of Watershed Projects.