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Title: Regarding water scarcity in Darjeeling Parliamentary Constituency-laid.

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): Despite receiving high rainfall, water scarcity is the most chronic issue facing various parts of the Darjeeling Lok Sabha constituency.

Due to the unplanned development of urban cities and inadequate infrastructure in rural regions, traditional water sources like lakes, springs, rivers and canals are drying up.

Unchecked illegal sand and stone mining have reduced the retention capacity of our rivers.

Multiple dams built over river Teesta and its tributaries have caused much destruction to our river systems and water cycle.

While our region receives enough rain, what we lack is the resources to retain the abundant water.

Nearly 15 Lakh people face acute water shortage in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik, Siliguri, Matigara, Algara, Phansidewa, Khoribari and Naxalbari blocks.

I request Central Govt to take a holistic approach to 'Har Ghar Jal' programme and include rejuvenation and revival of local water bodies by introducing various water harvesting methods on top priority.

