

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title :Regarding construction of Multipurpose Dam and Hydroelectric Power project on River Banshadhara in Koraput district, Odisha- Laid.

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): Banshadhara river happens to be the biggest river of undivided Koraput District. The river originates in the border of Thu Rampur in Kalahandi and Kalyansinghpur in Rayagada district of Odisha and runs for about 254 kilometers. The total catchment area of the river basin is about 10,830 square kilometers. Though the river originates in Odisha and passes about 170 KM in Odisha not a single drop is being utilized in the State, where as Andhra Pradesh constructed multiple dams on the downstream course of the river.

There lies a risk of submergence to all the river bay habitats including sub division town Gunupur in case of flood and depletion of ground water level too. Gunupur and surrounding blocks are drought prone areas and agricultural activities are rain dependent. The river being lifeline of my Constituency, I would like to request the Government to construct a multi-purpose dam for irrigation and hydro-electric power project on upstream, in line with Polavaram or Indira Sagar Project on river Godavari.

We demand a centrally sponsored National project to facilitate irrigation and help improve economic conditions of largely downtrodden people of the region. I would urge upon the Government to initiate all that is required to build a dam and hydroelectric power project on Banshadhara river in Odisha.