

Regarding development of Western Odisha

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Madam, it is indeed a paradox that though Western Odisha is a perennially drought affected area, it has several rivers flowing there. The Mahanadi River and its major tributary, the Tel, meet at Sonepur after travelling a distance of 296 kms from Nabarangpur district. When floods occur in the coastal belt of River Mahanadi, the major contributor of flood waters is the River Tel and its sub-tributaries, which cover a major portion of Western Odisha.

Over the last 60 years, several projects have been proposed on the Mahanadi and the Tel. Surveys of some of the projects have been completed while technical clearances have been obtained from the CWC for other projects. However, till date not even one project has started. Hence, the water eventually flows into the Bay of Bengal after causing havoc and destruction during its journey.

The Lower Suktel Irrigation Project in my Parliamentary Constituency, Balangir district, has been declared completed with zero per cent irrigation achievement by the recently ousted Government in the State. My suggestion is this. If projects and barrages are constructed on these two rivers and their tributaries, it would be a game-changer for Western Odisha as it would irrigate the dry lands, increase the groundwater level, resolve the flood problem and address the migrant labour issue. Besides, the water needed for irrigation and drinking water would also be looked after this. It would transform the livelihood of the people and the economy of the region.

Madam, through you I request the hon. Prime Minister's intervention into this urgent and important matter for the development of Western Odisha.

माननीय सभापति : श्री प्रद्युत बोरदोर्लोई जी ? उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्री लालजी वर्मा जी ।