

Regarding need for financial assistance for construction and maintenance of embankments along Sundarban delta in West Bengal-Laid

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): I would like to draw the attention of this august house regarding a matter of public importance. Every day more than 100 large cargo ships come from our neighboring country Bangladesh to India for trading purpose by using the water ways of Sundarban. These cargos cross several rivers around the Sundarban delta like Muriganga, Matla, Thakuraen, Vidyadhari, Piyali etc leading to soil erosion and thereby causing severe damage of river bank embankment of entire Sundarban area. Agricultural lands and ponds are getting polluted and becoming infertile and mud houses of the residents of Sundarban are being damaged by Saline water which passes through the broken embankment. The most alarming thing is that many islands like Kumirmari, Satjelia, Chhotomollakhali, Amtoli, Mousuni, Ghoramara etc are becoming vulnerable, struggling to exist due to heavy waves that hit and submerge the islands during the movement of large cargos. This worsened by rising sea levels caused by climate change. To protect our Sundarban and residents of the area, being a public representative of Sundarban, I would like to request the Central Government that either the trade should be conducted by road transportation or the Ports, Shipping and Water ways ministry should provide financial assistance for maintenance and construction of embankment of Sundarban.