

Title: Need to discuss the issue of Inter-river networking Programme.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody knows that the hon. Prime Minister of this country has already announced the Rivers Linking Programme. The hon. Prime Minister has already announced that 37 big rivers of our country would be linked up. After that, the Planning Commission has also announced the programme. It has been reported that Rs.5,60,000 crore is required to link up the rivers. My point in this regard is that it is a huge programme. It should be discussed in this august House properly. The interest of every State should be considered. The river-related issues like erosion, floods etc. should be addressed in this programme.

In this regard, I would also like to say that the demand of West Bengal also should be included in this programme. I would further like to say in this regard that there are many differences of opinion regarding the programme among the experts. Their views should be considered and taken up by the Government. The issue should be placed before this august House at the proper time and discussed. ...(*Interruptions*)