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Title: Need to give early clearance to Mahanadi Basin Development Project of Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, it has been planned to develop the basins multi-sectorally taking into account flood, drainage congestion, irrigation and agriculture along with allied activities for sustainable use of water resources. In this context, Mahanadi Basin Development Plan has been submitted to the Ministry of Water Resources for necessary clearance. The Detailed Project Report of components under Mahanadi Basin Development Project has been submitted to the Central Water Commission, and the technical scrutiny has been processed. ...(*Interruptions*)

The State-level Project Monitoring Committee has already cleared this project. This is a project costing around Rs. 3,555 crore, but I am dismayed to find that the project is being delayed citing one reason or the other. ...(*Interruptions*)

This project, if implemented, will change the life of the people of Orissa. As Orissa is an agrarian State and as irrigation facility is essential for providing food security, there is an urgency not only to expand irrigation coverage, mitigate flood, etc., but also to provide assured irrigation for raising agricultural productivity and to improve the quality of life in rural areas. ...(*Interruptions*) There is a need to raise and strengthen the embankments; extend, renovate and modernize the management of water of Mahanadi; and develop drainage system in eight doabs in the Mahanadi basin of coastal Orissa.

I urge upon the Government to expedite the matter and clear the project at the earliest, so that it can be posed to the World Bank, and the ADB for funding. Thank you, Sir....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shishupal N. Patle

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat

Shri Santosh Gangwar

. ...(*Interruptions*)