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Title : Regarding present state of canal system and water requirement for irrigation in the Country.

SHRIMATI RIMATI ANNU TANDON (UNNAO): Madam Speaker, I wish to raise this issue of very urgent public importance water, which has been motivated by a news article published on the 29<sup>th</sup> November in *Rashtriya Sahara*, Kanpur edition.

The article raises the concern of a very serious matter relating to cleaning up of canals in Unnao, my constituency, which is already struggling with drought conditions and dealing with water contamination and reduction of ground water levels, which is the lifeline of Unnao. Management of these canals is suffering heavily due to basically mismanagement by the local Government and administration and also corruption, as is stated in the article. Farmers across India are facing problems due to climatic changes causing lack of rains, untimely rains or even floods. Today not only global warming is impacting farmers in a hard way, the apathy of the State Government, specially in U.P. as mentioned earlier is adding to their woes.

We are aware that over 70 per cent of our population is dependent on agriculture and it is also the largest industry of our country....(*Interruptions*) The main ingredient required for the success of this industry is water. ...(*Interruptions*)

We also know that electricity is the basic infrastructural requirement for any industry which holds true even for the industry of agriculture. Electricity is enlisted under the Concurrent List, which is List-III of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, which forms the joint domain of both the State Governments and the Union Territories of India as well as the Central Government. It is my humble request Madam, that water is far too important an infrastructural requirement of the agricultural industry and hence must be included in the Concurrent List, if not in the Union List which should be more apt.

We are also aware that apart from air, water also is an important constituent of human life. Reduction of ground water level and climatic changes will inevitably cause scarcity of drinking water for human and animal alike. The gravity of this situation is well understood by this august House and this definitely is good enough cause for urgent and immediate consideration and action to treat water as a national resource. Beyond natural gas, coal and minerals, etc., water demands undivided attention and consideration for the future of the country as a national resource.

Madam, I strongly favour the inclusion of water in all its forms, needs and management into the Union List or at least in the Concurrent List as against being a State subject.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, you please conclude.

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON : All water resources and management work must be undertaken by one and the same Ministry to avoid confusion and lack of coordination. Water is a far more important subject than even electricity which definitely also is an essential infrastructural requirement to the growth of our nation, industry and otherwise. This may be allowed further discussion and debate.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON : But Madam, through you, I would request the hon. Prime Minister and the related hon. Ministers of Water Resources, Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and the Members of this House to please take cognizance and consider this as a cry for water from a child in 2050.