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Title: Dredging of Mahanadi river mouth.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The Paradeep Fishing Harbour, major Fish Landing Centre on the east coast, was developed by the Union Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1996. Its management *and* maintenance was done by the Paradeep Port Trust till 2011 and thereafter, it is being managed by a Management Society having suitable representation from fishermen and other stakeholders. The depth at the Mahanadi river mouth is less than one meter while it is required minimum four meter for smooth and safe navigation. Further, the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bengaluru has reported that due to beach nourishment *work* taken up by the Port Trust for protection of the sea wall, the situation at Mahanadi river mouth has been aggravated as no remedial measures have been taken to arrest the movement of sand towards the river mouth and navigation channel. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to issue appropriate directions to the Paradeep Port Trust to take up dredging of the river mouth and the navigational channel urgently for smooth and safe navigation of the fishing vessels and keep a check on the increasing accidents and casualties therein.