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Title:Need to ensure adequate maintenance of Farakka Barrage Project in West Bengal.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Farakka Barrage is one of modern temples of India as it provides water to Bangladesh and caters to the need of the water flow to Kolkata Port. But the fact of the matter is that this project has been the victim of indifference and neglect for decades and now in a precarious state ready to collapse.

It is due to the inadequate maintenance of the project leading to major gate failure on six occasions between 1985 to 2011. Even few months back, gate failure was witnessed, a cause of concern. CAG has even lambasted in its report that there is a serious lack in the maintenance. The barrage was commissioned in 1974. Gates remote control system and navigational locks of the barrage have been left non-functional for decades. If proper attention is not given to the maintenance of lock gates and other activities at the barrage it may entail a disaster which certainly has transnational implication. I would urge upon the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to have an overall maintenance on a war footing manner to prevent any further damage.