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Title: Need to expedite the process for release of funds for protection of Mangrove forests in Mahanadi Delta and Devi-kadua estuary sites in Odisha.

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): The Mangroves play a vital role to protect and preserve the coastal areas including human habitations from natural calamities. In this regard, I would like to state that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has agreed to the proposal of Odisha Government to provide 100% financial assistance for protection and management of Mangrove Forests in Bhitarkanika, Mahanadi delta and Devi-Kadua Estuary sites in the State. However, till date, the funds in respect of protection and conservation have not been received. It is a fact that every year the coastal parts of Odisha face the wrath of cyclones resulting in tidal surges, thereby affecting millions of people. Due to increasing occurrence of cyclones as well as growing human activities, the density of mangrove forest in these coastal areas has been receding rapidly. Therefore, to protect the coastal areas and the people in Odisha from tide induced submergence and destruction, it is necessary to provide adequate financial assistance to preserve, create and to manage the Mangrove forests.

Hence, I urge upon the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to expedite the process for release of funds in respect of protection of Mangrove forests in Mahanadi delta and Devi-Kadua Estuary sites.