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Title: Need to construct a barrage on the Budhabalanga river in Odisha.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): *Adhyaksh Mahodaya*, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise this issue.

I represent Balasore Lok Sabha Constituency which has got two districts, one is Balasore and other is Mayurbhanj. In my constituency, 89.11 per cent of our population lives in the rural areas and their primary source of earning is agriculture. Agriculture gets repeatedly devastated year after year because of several reasons – flood, cyclone, and drought. Among various things that cause this devastation, one is River Budhabalanga, which flows through two of my districts. It has a length of about 198 kilometres. Five of my assembly constituencies out of seven, get repeatedly devastated by virtue of the flood in this River. During rainy season there is a huge flood while during the remaining period there is no water. Hence, the farmers of my constituency suffer at both ends. The area constitutes Barsahi block, Betnoti block, Nilagiri, Remuna and Balasore Sadar of my Constituency.

Madam, since the farmers are acutely suffering, I would urge upon the Union Government to consider to construct a barrage in Barsahi and Betnoti area on River Budhabalanga, which will not only have a bearing on the lives of 40-50 thousand farmers directly and several others but also get an indirect benefit out of it.

I also demand that two multi-product mega cold storages be set up in Barsahi and Betnoti area in Mayurbhanj district which falls under my Parliamentary Constituency. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.