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Title: Need to release fund for Action Plan in respect of Mahanadi Delta for the year 2015-16.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, to protect and preserve the coastal areas including human habitations from natural calamities, mangroves play a vital role.

The coastal area of Bhitarkanika and Mahanadi Delta are the second largest mangroves of our country. Three coastal sites like Bhitarkanika, Mahanadi Delta and Devi-Kadua Estuary have been approved at the State-level Steering Committee, but only two Estuaries have been sanctioned, namely, Bhitarkanika and Devi-Kadua during 2015-2016. The sanction of Action Plan in respect of Mahanadi Delta for this year, that is, 2015-2016 has not been done.

Therefore, my demand is that the Central Government should take immediate steps as the Government of Odisha has requested in view of the fact that the mangroves play a vital role in protecting and preserving the coastal areas from natural calamities. The money should be released as quickly as possible.

I hope that I have not taken more than a minute to complete my submission.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. You are always helpful.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Thank you, Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON:

Shri Sharad Tripathi and

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.