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Title: Need to introduce a scheme to provide assistance to the people affected by flood in lower Damodar region in West Bengal.

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): Thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity. Annual flood has been a regular feature in Arambagh subdivision of Hooghly district of West Bengal. When Damodar Valley Corporation was conceived, it was expected that two dams will be constructed in the lower Damodar area. But ultimately they did not come up. As a result, when the dams in the upper regions of Damodar river release water in the rainy season, the entire sub-division gets flooded with the water and the other rivers like Darakeswar, Mundeswari and Shilabati which discharge their water in Damodar, also overflow their banks, causing loss of crops and great misery to the people of the entire sub-division....(*Interruptions*)

A Central scheme for the lower Damodar region is needed to save Arambagh sub-division and Uluberia sub-division of Howrah district. I urge upon the Ministry of Water Resources to take up the matter immediately either through dredging of Damodar or by interlinking other rivers with canals or by both the systems which immediately could protect the people.

Madam, a lot of pilgrims come to Kamarkundu from all over West Bengal and neighbouring States. But, on 4<sup>th</sup> of August, in a stampede on the Kamarkundu Rail Gate, one woman died on the spot, and 44 people were hospitalized. The State Government had given all the adequate facilities to them.

Madam, but, on 10<sup>th</sup> of August, it is purnima....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri R.K. Bharathi Mohan.

...(*Interruptions*)