

an>

Title: Need to undertake dredging of rivers, ports and waterways in the country.

**DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY):** Dredging of rivers, inland waterways, ports would result in savings of water. We find often in our rivers, port and waterways no navigation taking place resulting in huge loss. Added to this we find encroachment on the riverbeds. There is an urgent need for dredging of river. There is no dearth of rivers in our country but due to absence of proper dredging mechanism in place, most of the rivers are near empty and without water. We could find water only during monsoon. Proper dredging at regular interval is needed to restore the health of our water WAYS. With climate change taking over every other method of our efforts to improve environment, we need to focus on dredging to ensure that our rivers, ports, waterways live forever and not die in the foreseeable future. Hence, I would request the Government and the Shipping Ministry to make efforts to pay utmost importance to dredging and improving our navigational channels and bring back to life our ports, waterways and rivers.