

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

an>

Title: Need to divert flood reservoir water in drought hit areas and to implement river linking scheme.

*SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL (SANGLI): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, due to excessive rain, water level gets increased which leads to flood like situation during monsoon. This rain water can be used for irrigation purposes. I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on it during this 'Zero Hour'. I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards this important issue. Ours is an agriculture dominated country. Around 80% people are dependent on agriculture and agricultural related works for their livelihood. Hence to develop farming, it is our duty to provide better irrigation facilities to the farmers in order to help them to overcome their problems. During the Atal Bihari Vajpayee regime, the river linking programme was initiated. But due to the lack of co-ordination between the Central and State Governments during UPA regime, it could not progress further. Under this programme, it was envisaged to connect rivers, rivulets, lakes, ponds and other sources of water to divert this water towards the drought affected areas so that it can be used for irrigation. Through you Madam, I would like to request the Central Government to formulate a new irrigation policy and this important programme should be revived once again. Better co-ordination with State Governments should be developed and more funds should be infused in this project. I am sure by doing this, our farmers would get a new life by overcoming these drought related problems.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil.