

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding likely threat of floods in West Bengal due to release of water from Damodar Valley Corporation dams.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, I would like to raise the following matter in 'Zero Hour'.

Our State of West Bengal is facing the threat of floods in six districts namely, Birbhum, Bankura, Murshidabad, Howrah, Hooghly and East Midnapore. Already three people have died in three districts. A large number of villages are facing water logging. This flood threat is man-made. The flood threat has come due to release of water from the dams of Damodar Valley Corporation. Since West Bengal is in the lower reaches of river Damodar, our suffering is more. The water level in Tenughat reservoir in Jharkhand is already high and the dam is likely to release more water. The DVC has released two lakh cusecs of water in three days from Maithon and Panchet dams, both of which are situated in West Bengal. ... (*Interruptions*)

The State Government has been repeatedly requesting for de-silting of the reservoirs in above dams since a long time but the DVC, which is under the Central Government, has taken no steps. Nor has the Centre given approval to the Lower Damodar Drainage Scheme.... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, the flood in West Bengal is man-made. I may say that the Prime Minister went for an aerial survey of floods in Gujarat and sanctioned Rs.500 crore for flood relief, which is all right but he did not come to visit Assam, which is badly affected by flood, or Rajasthan let alone West Bengal. We want the Prime Minister to deal with all the flood affected States on an equal footing and take steps to stop the man-made floods in West Bengal. Thank you, Madam.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri C. Mahendran. Three Members are raising the same issue.