

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्री सभापति: श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा बिहार और यूपी से संबंधित इस विषय को already उठा चुके हैं।

Demand to release funds for Ghatal master plan to Bengal

SHRIMATI ARPITA GHOSH (West Bengal): In Bengal, areas of Ghatal gets flooded seasonally by the Shilabati River. Even places like Chetua and Daspur have been affected by this. A lot of problems are caused to the people living there due to this constant flooding. To provide relief to the people, the Irrigation Department of the Government of Bengal had chalked out a plan called the Ghatal Master Plan, which was sent to the Centre for clearance in 2014.

While the Centre had finally given its clearance a couple of years ago, the ₹1,300 crore project is still being funded by the State. In the past, irrigation projects had a 75:25 Centre-State sharing relationship. Since 2014, this has been reduced to a 50:50 share. But the State is yet to receive the share from the Centre. This means that the State Government has had to pay the entire share from its coffers. While this is financially stressful in itself, the pandemic, Cyclone Amphan and lack of GST dues means that the State finances are in dire straits.

The construction and relief work in Ghatal is critical for the people and their livelihoods. The State Government has been urging the Centre for the last six years since the plan was submitted for clearance, to provide the dues. I request the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Jal Shakti to look into this matter at the earliest and release the funds owed to Bengal for this project.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Demand to introduce of special trains between Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad-Tirupati

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Following its core objective of social obligation, the Railways has been running 230 special trains since May, particularly, to help migrant labourers and stranded people to reach their destination. Though in a limited manner, these special trains have been very useful.