

DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92.

Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata – 70015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

Memo No: DMF/President-09/22

Date: 18.05.2022

To
The Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge
Irrigation and Waterways Department, Govt. of West Bengal
Jalsampad Bhavan, 1st Floor,
Block DF, Sector - I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700 091

Sub : Rejuvenation of Buriganga River in Chakdaha Block of Nadia District

Sir,

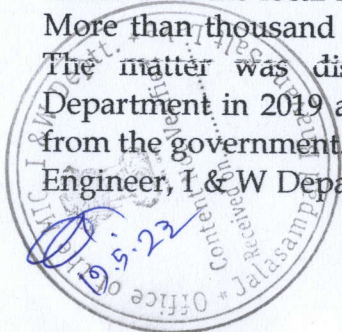
You may be aware that there is an age old important river channel in Chakdaha Block of Nadia District. The river originates from Hooghly River and encircling several villages and a portion of Chakdaha Municipality returns to Hooghly River covering a large area and several villages of Chakdaha Block.

Apart from acting as drainage system of storm water, the river provided livelihood of several thousands of fishers and fish workers. Good amount of fish stock was available in the river. Nutrition demand of the local people was supported at cheap rate. Farmers also used the water in the adjacent agricultural fields. It was also a very useful navigation channel for transportation of goods and people of the adjacent villages. The River used to nurture a large number of birds and animals. For recharging of ground water in the block, the river channel also played a very important role.

Since last few years, the river is completely filled up by silt and water hyacinth. Flow of the river has been completely choked. Waste is being dumped on the river at various places. Now apart from functioning as a breeding ground of mosquitoes and insects, the channel has no function. Hundreds of fishers, who were dependent on the river for their livelihood, are now starving. Many of them have been compelled to leave their traditional occupation.

Earlier in the dry seasons the farmers used water from Buri Ganga for irrigation. Now agriculture has been severely affected in absence of water in the dry season. Again in the rainy season, the fields get flooded as the water cannot pass away.

Nadia District Committee and Chakdaha Block Committee of Dakshin Banga Matsyajibi Forum, local organizations like Chakda Bigyan O Sanskritik Sangstha, Chakda Byabosayee Samiti and the local residents have been requesting for rejuvenation of the river since long. More than thousand citizens made appeal to the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 19 January 22. The matter was discussed with the Executive Engineer, Irrigation & Water Works Department in 2019 and he informed that the work may be done if he receives instruction from the government. Accordingly we met the ADM (LR), Nadia. He issued letter to the Exe. Engineer, I & W Department under his Memo No. 3278/VI-33(17)/MM/LR/14 dated 14.8.19



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requesting him to take necessary steps. In 2020 the BDO of Chakdaha Block agreed to start cleaning the channel by appointing the fish workers at daily wage.

Unfortunately nothing happened thereafter. The river remains as it is without any improvement of its condition. We request you to take some steps to rejuvenate the river. Cleaning of the river, removal of water hyacinth, dredging and excavation of silted stretches will not cost much.

Recently we met Gram Pradhan of Chandulia 1 GP and discussed the issue with him. He informed us that his GP is committed to spend Rs. 2 lakhs for the rejuvenation work, as a token support. We have been informed that the officers of your department visited the river channel in September 21, but any positive result of the visit is yet unknown.

We request you to kindly let us know the position of your department regarding rejuvenation of the river channel. We earnestly request you to take a positive stand and start the work so that thousands of fishers may survive, local economy can flourish and ecology is protected.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely

Debasis Shyamal

Debasis Shyamal
President

Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum
20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata-700015

Memo No: DMF/President - 09(1/3)/22

Date: 18.05.2022

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to -

1. Principal Secretary, Irrigation and Waterways Department, Govt. of West Bengal
2. Additional District Magistrate (LR), (Nadia District), Krishnanagar, Nadia
3. Block Development Officer, Chakdaha Block, Nadia

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