Last Word

Water for All?

Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans (Jacques Cousteau (1910–1997)).



The river has changed so much since the factory was set up near its bank. Now the water smells foul. We collect it because there is no other source nearby. The river was our lifeblood, now we cannot drink from it as we did before (Ibu Murjyati, Samarinda, East Kalimantan, Indonesia).



Rural communities are a pampered lot in this country; they take up more water for irrigation than we urban people use. They farm crops that they should not be farming in this dry country (Michael Williams, Sydney).

The dams in Damodar Valley Corporation were built to protect us farmers from floods. They now cause floods and destroy our livelihoods. We have an excess of water in one season and a scarcity in another (Ratan Ghosh, Khanakul villager in Lower Damodar Valley, India).