

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

breadth of Brahmaputra widened to the extent of 15 kilometres due to excessive silt desposition.

During the last two decades more than 10 thousand villages including part of the river islands Majuli amounting 10 per cent of the total fertile cultivable land of Assam were engulfed by the river system. Every year there are loss of life, property of several hundred crores including disruption of road and rail communication. The maximum damage done last year resulting in disruption of road communication and breach of embankments could not be repaired yet due to financial stringency in Jonai, Dhemaji, Majuli, Lakhimpur, Sodia, Chabua, Dhakuakhana and Nowboicha areas under my parliamentary constituency.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Water Resources to draw a special plan for desiltation fo the river system by way of dredging and to provide additional fund urgently for immediate restoration of the protection bundhs and road comunication before the start of rainy season. the Brahmaputra Board may also be specially advised for prepanng a master plan to deal with the situation by applying remote sensing device and dredging operation

(viii) Need to solve acute scarcity of drinking water in Bonda district, UP.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAJEEVAN (Banda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a large tract of land in district Banda, UP consists of plataues, hillocks and uneven topography. Drinking water is avaiabile at about 150 to 200 feet below the ground level. The drought affected farmers have utilised whatsoever little rain water was left in all ponds etc. by flushing it out with the help of the pump-sets for irrigation purpose. Lakhs of people are at present faced with acute scarcity of safe drinking water and this problem is going to acquire serious dimensions during the coming Summer.

Therefore, the need of the hour is to solve the drinking water problem urgently and for that immediate steps should be taken by the Government. The Government should also provide funds for the pending drinking water schemes. The antiquated rig machines for digging hand-pums should be declared obsolete and more and more hand-pumps should be installed by procuring modern rig machines of greater capacity. In ordder to sovie the drinking water problem the Central Government should release Rs. five crore directly to the District Development Agency of Banda.

(ix) Need to take steps to Revive Sick NTC Mills in U.P. Particularly in Kanpur

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Sir, there are 11 mills, five in Kanpur itself and the rest in other parts of the State, under the control of NTC (UP) Ltd. These were taken over as sick unit and nationalised by STUNA in 1974 with a view to cater to the needs of poor and middle people.

Since September, 1991, their production activities became standstill due to budgetary cut and now declared under "C" category. In order to revive these mills, the Production Plan was prepared by NITRA under Textile Ministry in 1993. A reference was also made to BIFR regardig the accumulated losses suffered by the subsidiary which opined that unless the accumulated losses were converted to equity or else written off, the net worth of subsidiary cannot become positive within stipulated period

I urge upon the Government to take up immediate steps to revive their sick mills.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Sir, I have been allowed by the hon. Speaker as a standby to raise a matter under Rule 377.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not aware of it. What is the subject ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : It was regarding keeping INS Vikrant in the Museum.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right please speak.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also a standby. I request you to allow me also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am allowing him because he had said that the hon. Speaker has allowed him

(x) Need to Preserve INS Vikrant as a Symbol of Patriotism and Nationalism

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : On 31st January 1997, the grand old lady of the Indian Navy, INS Vikrant was decommissioned from the Indian Navy after thirty-five years of distinguished and meritorious service.