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Title : Need to check extensive erosion being caused by Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries in Assam.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): I like to draw attention of the Government regarding extensive erosion caused by the river Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries affecting more than 28% of the total cultivable area in Assam causing a serious threat to the future economy of the state. Due to continued erosion and diversion of the river thousands of families become homeless every year forcing them to stay over roads and embankments. The Brahmaputra Board had drawn 49 sub-basin Master Plans, which contained flood management, anti erosion as well as river training work along with 34 nos. of Drainage Development Schemes most of which are yet to be sanctioned.

The alarming rate of erosion posing threat to the existence of world's largest river island Majuli, needs highest attention of the Government. In the name of conducting model study the actual protection works are not started by the Board. The frequent change of the Chairman of Brahmaputra Board is another reason for delayed implementation of the projects. The erosion of Brahmaputra at various vulnerable points like Rohmorja of Dibrugarh, Ananta Nala of Tinsukia, Matmora of Dhakuakhana, Palashbari of Kamrup, Bohari of Barpeta, Hatimora of Nowgaon and various township from Sadia to Dhubri also in various segments of Barak river has become a serious concern.

May I therefore, urge upon the Government to take up a National programme only for the erosion control and river training in the Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries and to implement them urgently. The task force report on erosion should be implemented immediately.

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MR. SPEAKER: It has been agreed by all parties that we should take up Item No.21. But I have also committed that I would allow three-four matters of urgent public importance. Therefore, let us take up those matters first and go to Item 21 immediately after that.

**13.00 hrs.**