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Title : Need to formulate a plan to prevent erosion caused by river Ganges in Ranaghat Parliamentary Constituency in West Bengal.

DR. SUCHARU RANJAN HALDAR (RANAGHAT): I represent Ranaghat Parliamentary Constituency in the district of Nadia, West Bengal. The famous and highly populated places like Nabadwip, Shantipur, Ranaghat, Chakdaha of my constituency are bordering the eastern bank of river Ganges.

Nabadwip is the birth-place of Shri Chaitanya and its neighbouring Mayapur is internationally famous for pilgrimage where the headquarters of ISKCON is located and millions of people from all over the world regularly come here.

Shantipur is the birth place of the famous Poet KRITTIBAS OJHA, the translator of the RAMAYANA from 'Sanskrit into Bengali' and the weaving center of the famous Shantipur Sarees.

Ranaghat, the cultural and political nerve-centre of the district is historically important with the memoirs of Netaji Bose and Gurudev Tagore.

All these localities are under threat from erosion of Ganges. During last three decades, due to this erosion, millions of people, most of whom are from SCs, STs and Minority communities have to desert their homes, agricultural fields, schools. Many villages have vanished from the map of my constituency. No substantial plan for permanent solution has been made.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take corrective measures immediately to check the soil erosion permanently so that the birth place of Shri Chaitanaya Mahaprabhu can be saved.