

nt>

Title: Need to preserve the natural beauty of Calcutta city. -Laid

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH-WEST): Over 300 years ago, Jobe Charnak of Joan Co. landed at the village of Sutanati, which eventually gave birth to the great city of Calcutta. Sutanati does no longer exist except in history books and old documents, but it is a fact that it existed on the bank of Hoogly river within the geographical limits of the present Calcutta North West area, more precisely, between Baghbazar and Nimtala Burning ghat. When the city started to grow during the British rule, this area became a Port of Calcutta and later on it was developed and maintained through Calcutta Port Trust. Not only did they do civil maintenance but also the law and order was handled pretty well by the Calcutta Port Police. The inhabitants of near localities like Jorabagan, Aihiritola Beniatole, Sovabazar, Kumartuli, Baghbazar etc. not only did use to come for a dip in the holy river Ganga but also came for pleasure strolls or just to sit around and enjoy the serenity. It was such a safe place that even women did not fear to frequent the area.

This was the place where people used to come to breathe, to reflect and to get united with nature. This was the atmosphere of the place even some 25 years ago. But it is not the same now.

The Calcutta Port Trust has become totally negligent towards civil maintenance, the police vigil has vanished, the bathing ghats are in dangerous condition and have become death-traps and the whole area has become safe heaven for anti-social elements and their nefarious activities. The steel-railways along the Strand Bank Road have long been stolen and very recently erected barricades by the circular Railway authority have been either damaged or removed. Moreover, Calcutta Municipal Corporation has started to dump garbages at the riverside. It has become such a horrible place even a beggar will fear to tread.

The Surface Transport Ministry is urged upon to intervene immediately and take all necessary steps to restore the old beauty of Calcutta.