

there are more floods, but the nature of flood which has been changing and causing more damage. This is the exact position in the Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh where Chauka river is changing its course every year thus causing heavy floods in the area. Besides, Kevani, Gobarhiya, Ghagra and Saryu river flow in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh due to which major parts of Biswa, Behatas and Laharpur assembly constituencies come under the grip of heavy floods every year. Therefore, I request the honourable Minister for Water Resources to see to it that a survey is conducted in the flood affected area immediately and urgent measures are taken to provide relief to the people in Sitapur district.

(v) **Need to convert Sasaram-Buxar Road, Bihar into a National Highway**

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj): Sasaram-Buxar road in Bihar is a very old road. It connects the two historical cities of Sasaram and Buxar. At the same time it also connects two States Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Buxar is a prominent commercial and industrial city in Bihar. It is the *Karmbhumi* of Purushottam Ram. It is also a famous and sacred pilgrimage centre. Sasaram is the birth place and *Karmbhumi* of historical man, Shershah Suri. The world famous mausoleum of Shershah Suri also stands here. Sasaram is also a famous industrial city as also business and tourist centre. Many small and big cities also lie on this road. Only one way traffic is allowed on this road. As a result many major accidents take place there.

Keeping in a view, the national importance of this road and the accidents happening there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I urge upon the Government of India to approve a plan to convert this road into a National Highway immediately.

(vi) **Need to declare Bhubaneswar Orissa as B-2 grade city**

[English]

SHRISIVAJIPATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): As per the Census Report of 1991, the present population of Bhubaneswar City, the capital of Orissa is 4,11,542. This has now fulfilled the criteria for consideration as a B-2 city as per the recommendation of the Fourth Central Pay Commission.

Earlier also, as per the Third Central pay Commission's Report, it was eligible for declaration as a B-2 city, but the Government did not act at that time and the Central Government employees stationed at Bhubaneswar were deprived of adequate benefit in the shape of house rent and city allowances, etc. The city is costly and apart from its population of 4,11,542, it has a large floating population due to pilgrims and tourists as also due to its administrative importance. The rate of house rent is very high which is beyond the reach of common people and salaried employees. This has caused the growth of slums in and around the city throwing more people to live in these slums.

In view of all these facts, the upgradation of the city is urgently needed. More construction of central pool quarters, enhanced house rent allowance of Central Government employees and more central assistance for housing and other developments of the city is called for.

(vii) **Need to prevent export of raw cotton in order to safeguard the interest of Handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country**

SHRI CHINNASAMY SRINIVASAN (Dindigul): In Tamil Nadu, several people belonging to poor and weaker sections are engaged in tiny and small handloom industry. The existence of handloom industry basically depends on the availability of raw materials such as cotton and yarn.