

find. Unfortunately they are languishing in abject poverty and there is none to look after them. Some of these Sanskrit scholars possess very old and valuable hand-written manuscripts.

Government of India should send a team of experts to Mithila to locate these scholars with the help of local administration, procure these manuscripts and make arrangements for their publication. Special efforts should also be made to ameliorate the lot of these scholars. Sufficient funds should be given to Bihar for Sanskrit scholars.

- (ii) Demand for taking steps to modernise the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works, Ghazipur (U.P.) and save it from closure in the interest of workers.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur): The Government Opium and Alkaloid Works at Ghazipur (U.P.) is more than 100 years old. There are about 600 workers who are working in the said factory and a large number of farmers are engaged in the production of opium. It has been reported that this factory is going to be closed on the orders of the environmental authorities. It has been alleged that the water discharge from the factory is polluting the river Ganga.

12.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The environmental authorities have been insisting for long for the installation of anti-pollution devices at the factory but the management is ignoring their repeated directions. The workers and the farmers are suffering.

The management is not taking desired steps for the modernisation of this factory. More than Rs. 50 crores were sanctioned about three years back for the modernisation of the factory, but it appears that nothing has been done in this matter. I fear that there

is a conscious conspiracy on the part of the management to close this factory for ever.

There is an apprehension in the minds of workers and farmers due to the recent orders of the environmental authorities. The Mill management has installed a temporary device of anti-pollution in the factory.

I urge upon the Finance Minister to give immediate attention to this matter so that the factory is not closed, anti-pollution devices as per the suggestion of the environmental authorities are installed and the factory is fully modernised and expanded.

- (iii) Demand for re-starting the closed Textile Mills in Bombay and steps to prevent further closure of like Mills.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): On the last Republic Day three more textile mills in Bombay named Swan Mill (Kurla), Swan Mill (Seewari) and Swan Process (Sewari) have been suddenly closed making a total of 12 textile mills which have been closed in Maharashtra rendering nearly 25,000 textile workers unemployed. Further, three mills, two of Khatau and one of Raghuvanshi in Bombay are also facing closure. Efforts should be made by the Government to re-start the closed mills and to take preventive action regarding further closures.

- (iv) Demand for Sending a Central team to Orissa to assess intensity of drought in Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of the State and suggest remedial measures.

SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA (Bolangir): Scanty and erratic rainfall this year has created a severe drought situation in Bolangir and part of Kalahandi district in Orissa and people there have no means or morale to face more severe and extensive drought this year. The rural economy has collapsed, rural indebtedness has become too heavy, unemployment position is ex-

[Sh. Nityananda Misra]

remely acute and lakhs of people of my constituency have left their hearth and home and migrated in search of jobs. Unfortunately, this drought prone zone is extremely deficient in irrigation where a meagre 5 per cent of the total cropped area enjoys irrigational facility. Though the people have become victims of drought for the past five months, adequate measures have not yet been taken to provide relief or employment. Union Government should formulate special schemes and take immediate and prompt steps to allocate adequate resources to implement those schemes. Agriculture Ministry should send a Central team to assess the intensity of drought and sanction funds for implementing employment oriented schemes, to improve watershed management and construct small, minor and lift irrigation projects to augment irrigation potential.

- (v) **Demand for measures to save Uluberia town from Subsidence.**

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, the Municipal town of Uluberia, situated at the bank of the river Ganges (the Hooghly River), is facing threat of subsidence or massive erosion. Already a large portion—about one kilometre—has subsided and more than thirty shops have gone under water. Lives of several thousands of people are in danger. Due to massive siltation on the east bank, the west bank of Hooghly, from Sankrail-Rajgunge to Uluberia, is facing danger of subsidence.

Due to massive erosion in northern India, the river is carrying earth and other materials from the upstream causing massive siltation in the lower Ganges. The river is losing its navigability. Due to construction of Farakka Barrage and the Indo-Bangladesh agreement on sharing of water, the quantity of water and water flow have reduced. Instead of 40,000 cusecs, only 20,000 cusecs water is available in the lower Ganges during lean period. Besides, during the past few years, three big ships have sunk in this part and the Calcutta Port Trust did not

remove them. Over the year, there is siltation around them and the river-bed has lost its depth, causing obstruction to natural course of the river.

The Man Singh Committee, the Pandey Commission and the famous expert Shri Kapil Bhattacharya have emphatically suggested continuous dredging of lower Ganges to maintain navigability. But since, 1953, there is no proper dredging and even the CPT is not dredging the lower stream river-bed.

Due to accumulated effects, Uluberia town is threatened. Under the circumstances, it is of utmost importance that coordinated action is taken to save Uluberia town from subsidence.

- (vi) **Demand for Settling up the proposed Vijayanagar Steel Plant at Hospet in Karnataka early.**

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): Sir, the people of Karnataka are very much agitated over the fact the Vijayanagar Steel Plant, for which foundation was laid by the then Prime Minister in 1971, has still not been set up. Many other steel plants which were conceived along with this steel plant have already been set up and are functioning. Further, there is a disturbing report that instead of steel plant, a thermal plant will be set up at Hospet, which is the location for the proposed Vijayanagaram Steel Plant. People of Karnataka will not accept the thermal plant as a substitute of the steel plant. They want both the steel plant and the thermal plant and priority is given for the steel plant.

- (vii) **Demand for buying at remunerative price the Cotton and Chillus produced in Andhra Pradesh by the Cotton Corporation of India and the State Trading Corporation, respectively, to alleviate farmers suffering.**

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Sir, the farmers of Warangal, Karimnagar and Adilabad districts in Andhra