

late the total cost of the project, on the other hand it also deprives the country of the benefit which it could have had on the completion of the project.

I, therefore, would like to urge upon the Government to take prompt necessary action in respect of land acquisition to complete the Koel-Karo Hydro-electric Project.

[English]

- (v) **Need to construct a permanent dam along banks of river Ganga in Ganj Doondwara, Tehsil Patlail, District Etah, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Tehsil Patiali in District Etah (Uttar Pradesh) is in my Parliamentary Constituency in which village Qdar Ganj and other villages are located on both sides of River Ganga. When River Ganga is flooded during the rainy season, the villages and the crops are damaged. Unless a permanent dam is constructed along the banks of River Ganga, these villages and their crops cannot be saved from destruction. The Government of India is requested to construct a permanent dam along the river bank to save these villages.

- (vi) **Need to check the erosion by river Brahmaputra from Chapar to Chanderdinga in District Dhubri (Assam)**

SHRI ABDUL HAMID (Dhubri): Continuous erosion of River Brahmaputra which has taken place from Chapar to Chanderdinga, the length of which is about 10 km. in the District of Dhubri, Assam, has posed a great threat to the life and property of the people living in the nearby areas. The erosion has already damaged and swallowed a huge area. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless and landless. Even my own village Puthimari has been on the verge of extinction as most part of it has been

washed away by River Brahmaputra. This is going on unattended to both by the Union Government as well as by the State Government for the last 20 years despite repeated demand to protect the place and the people living there.

The area in question is a thickly populated and most of the people are agriculturists by profession. The people are very poor and they have to suffer due to natural calamities like floods, droughts, erosion and other natural phenomenon in season and out of season. The people of the area, including the elected representatives of the people have been moving from pillar to post to protect the erosion-stricken people for a long time but nothing has been done so far.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to come forward to protect the area in question in the interest of poor people living there.

- (vii) **Need for steps to avoid delay in issuing passports in Kerala**

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): There is inordinate delay in issuing passports in Kerala. While in other States, a passport is issued in two to three weeks, in Kerala it takes anything between three to six months. Because of this delay, a large number of people who get job offers in foreign countries lose them. This is causing serious discontent among the people in the State.

One of the reasons for this delay is said to be the shortage of staff in the Passport Office in Cochin. If it is true, immediate steps should be taken to appoint necessary staff in this office.

I would request the Government to realise the seriousness of this problem and take all necessary steps so that the present delay in getting a passport is obviated. Directions may be issued that passports should be issued to applicants in Kerala within two to three weeks.