

[Dr. Datta Samant]

buildings are more than fifty years old and need repairs very badly. During the last ten years, more than hundred buildings collapsed and two hundred and thirty five persons died and seven hundred and thirty persons injured. And at present, one hundred and fifty buildings are in a dangerous condition and may collapse any time. Maharashtra Government has appointed a House Repair Board and they are carrying out some work but funds are inadequate and so no progress could be made. Central Government is getting about twenty five hundred crores of rupees per year by means of taxes from Bombay. I, therefore, request the Central Government to make provision of fifty crores of rupees per year for repair and reconstruction of old buildings in Bombay.

- (vi) Demand for rehabilitation of workers rendered jobless owing to closure of several textile mills in Coimbatore and taking over these mills.

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore) : In my constituency of Coimbatore, several small textile mills, namely, Janardhana Textile Mills, Vasantha Textile Mills, Srihari Textile Mills, etc. have been closed down for the last three years or so. Due to closure of these small textile mills, about 10,000 workers belonging to weaker section have been thrown out of job and they have not been able to find any alternate means of livelihood. These workers have been facing untold sufferings and most of them are on the verge of starvation. Already about 60 workers have died recently and the situation is getting worse day by day.

I would, therefore, request the Union Labour Minister kindly to intervene and instruct the State Government to rehabilitate the poor workers. I would also humbly submit to the Union Minister of Textiles kindly to consider to take over these small mills and make them viable so that the textile workers can get employment in their respective mills. Sir, it is a very serious problem and the Central Government should take immediate steps to save these poor workers.

[*Translation*]

- (viii) Demand for changing the site of the proposed birdsanctuary under Kabar Lake Scheme.

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Balija) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the arable land of a number of poor farmers falls in Kabar lake area of Begusarai district. Recently, the Central Government has taken a decision to convert this lake into a birdsanctuary. Hundreds of farmers will be affected from this decision. It has created a problem for them in earning their livelihood. It is not justified to convert the arable land of these poor farmers into Birds Sanctuary. In Cheria and Wariapur which fall in my constituency and in Assembly segment of Barbari, about 4,000 acres of land of the farmers remain water-logged. The part of the lake which remains submerged upto the depth of 5 to 6 feet can be developed into a Birds Sanctuary. The rest of the land where there is less water, can be made available to the farmers for cultivation by draining out the water. Thus the farmers can be saved from starvation. The farmers are much agitated here over this problem. This agitation may turn into a farmer's movement any time.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister that where there is less water in Kabar lake, it should be drained out to make the land available to the farmers to prevent them from starvation, and the deep water area should be converted into birdsanctuary.

[*English*]

- (ix) Demand for steps to settle the long pending border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka states.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : The Border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka States has been pending for almost three decades. The one-man Commission namely Mahajan Commission which was appointed to make recommendations with a view to solving the dispute submitted its report to the Union Government in August, 1967. It was neither accepted by Maharashtra nor by the Union Government. The people