

When I went to Karnal in Har-
yana to know about the research work
being done to reclaim alkaline
soils I found that they have easily
succeeded in making the waste
alkaline lands fit for cultivation.
I have seen that even the Harijans
are doing rice cultivation in the re-
claimed lands and they are getting
about 30 bags of paddy per hectare
within the second year of reclama-
tion. The researchers told me that
it will go upto 50 bags per hectare
within two years.

I feel that if the Government
take interest and reclaim this land,
about 40,000 landless poor can get
land and we can get about 2,00,000
tonnes of paddy per annum.

I, therefore, urge upon the Govern-
ment to take up this scheme imme-
diately.

(iii) STEPS TO KEEP THE RIVER
GANGA FREE FROM POLLUTION

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER
(Ghazipur) : Recently research-
es have revealed that river Ganga
is the most polluted river in the
world. The Ganga is considered
to be the most sacred river in
India and in many places includ-
ing Haridwar, Allahabad and
Varanasi crores of Hindus take
their holy dip on auspicious occasions.
The large scale pollution in the
river is bound to affect the health
of crores of people including those
who are living on the banks of the
river.

Researches have also revealed
that the extent of population is
more in the river where it crosses
through Varanasi. A scheme
was launched in Varanasi by the
Government of UP with the Central
financial assistance to divert the
sewage water of the city from
the river to irrigation purposes.
Some time back it was reported
in the papers that crores of rupees
have gone under the drains and the

sewage water continues to flow in
the river.

The people residing on the banks
of the Ganga in Varanasi and ad-
joining areas have started to feel
bad effects on their health.

I, therefore, urge upon the
Government to take immediate steps
to keep the sacred river of Ganga
free from pollution in the best
interest of the people of the country.

(iv) STEPS FOR CONDUCTING LOCAL
BODY ELECTIONS IN TAMIL NADU

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR
(Dindigul) : The local body elec-
tions were not conducted for the
last 11 years in Tamil Nadu. The
elections for the Corporation of
Madras and various Municipalities
were also being postponed for the
past 11 years, as a result of which
the democracy and the democratic
right of the people in so far as the
local body elections are concerned,
is at stake in Tamil Nadu. There
were no elected representatives to
fight for the cause of the public
before the officials and the Govern-
ment at various stages. The said
elections have been postponed many
times. The urban and rural people
could not get even their minimum
requirements and necessities and
essentials like rations, drinking water,
road facilities, street lights and
so many other facilities and
benefits. The panchayats, the panch-
ayat councils, municipal councils
and the councils of corporations
are defunct for the past 11 years.

So, on behalf of the people
of Tamil Nadu I call upon the
Central Government to take suit-
able steps to direct the state Govern-
ment of Tamil Nadu to conduct
all the local body elections starting
from village panchayat upto Madras
Corporation in the interest of the
urban and rural public in Tamil
Nadu and in the interest of safe-
guarding the democratic rights of
the people of Tamil Nadu.