

am new to this Ministry. He is also right to say that financial aid to the tune of Rs. 250 crores has already been provided by the previous Government for the modernisation of the industry which has resulted in improving the health of the industry. I assure the hon'ble Member that we will take all possible steps for further improving the functioning of the industry.

**SHRI LALU PRASAD:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of jute is related with the farmers and unemployment of workers. During the last few years thousands of workers of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, who were out of work used to get employment in Jute factories in Calcutta. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that improvements are being made in jute industry. My submission is that Rs. 32/-, which is the price of quintal of jute fetch only 1 Kg. of meat. Thus the chief crop of the farmers is sold at throw away prices in Bihar and Bengal. During the past, Congress has been responsible for the increase in number of unemployed people and they played foul with the farmers. Previously jute bogs were used for packing sugar which were later reused by the poor people to cover their bodies. But during the last few years Congress Party propagated the use of polythene; this has rendered the jute industry sick and given it a set back. In view of this I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether use of polythene would be checked in order to encourage the jute industry.

**SHRI SHARAD YADAV:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already submitted that the hon. Member has raised a very just issue that the use of polyester bags has proved very harmful for this industry. We have taken certain measures to check it and the process would continue. An Act in this regard already exists according to which FCI, Punjab Agro Industries and the states are required to purchase jute products for their packing requirements.

I fully agree with the hon. Member that the use of polyester bags has proved very harmful to that industry. The labourers who carry these bags and other workers engaged in this industry has suffered. The food

staffs packed in these bags become unhygienic also. That is why the Government have taken certain steps to discourage the use of polyester bags and the task would be accomplished earnestly by implementing the concerned law with strictness.

[English]

#### **Erosion of Ghoramara Island by River Currents**

\*42. **SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 'Ghoramara Island, just at the junction of the Bay of Bengal and the river Hooghly, is gradually being eroded by the river currents;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps to be taken by Government to save the Island?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA):** (a) to (c). It has been reported that the circuit embankment of the Ghoramara Island is affected by erosion. A protection scheme is under formulation by the Government of West Bengal.

**SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government will take immediate necessary measures for the rehabilitation and compensation of the poor people of Ghoramara Island who have lost their dwelling houses, homestead land and cultivable land under this erosion? Already, two-thirds of this island has gone into the river Hooghly due to erosion and thousands of people have been made homeless and landless.

**SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA:** Let me submit that this entire liability is on the State Government. The State Government has reported that only 2000 persons are there. The population of this entire island is only 2000. What the hon. member submits is

noted; I think we will go through it and we will advise the State Government to take adequate action.

**SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what urgent steps the Government will take in future so that such type of erosions can be checked in time to avoid such devastation of the poor people?

**SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA:** We are informed that the State Government has formulated one scheme and that scheme includes this Ghoramara Island also. As soon as my Ministry receives it, we will do the needful in the matter.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri K.S. Rao.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** What is the connection with Ghoramara Island?

**SHRI SAMBASIVA RAO, KAVURI:** I have got some island in my own State.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You address the Chair.

**SHRI SAMBASIVA RAO KAVURI:** There is an island near the sea coast in my District about which I had informed the hon. Minister earlier. The hon. Minister said that it was a State subject and that the Government of India had nothing to do with erosion in the sea. I want to get a clarification about this.

Secondly, I had referred to a similar matter about erosion of land in my district where land costing about a lakh of rupees per acre, which is giving very good yield, is also getting eroded. About 500 acres of land has already eroded. When I referred this matter to the Ministry, they sent a committee also there to find out the erosion and to suggest some measures. I had received the reply earlier from the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources. So, I wish to have a clarification from the hon. Minister whether he sticks to his stand that erosion of land into the sea is a matter for the State Government to deal with, or the Government

of India has got anything to do with it.

Are you satisfied now, Mr. Indrajit Gupta?

**SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA:** Sir, let me submit that this Question is limited to the Ghoramara Island.

**SHRI SAMBASIVA RAO, KAVURI:** I have asked about the policy.

**SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA:** Let me finish. May I request the hon. Member to give me a separate notice for this? If a notice is issued, we will certainly get all the information regarding that. The hon. Member has mentioned about the sea coast of Andhra Pradesh. I will look into it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next Question No. 43. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Qn. 43. May I, through you, request the hon. Minister that he may reply to question No. 47 also because the subject of both the Questions is the same. It may be convenient for him to reply to both the Questions together.

**MR. SPEAKER:** They may be clubbed together.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA):** I think the hon. Member has to put the Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is Shri Surya Narayan Singh here? Yes, he is there. He can put the question.

**SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH:** Q. No. 47.

#### **Implementation of Narmada valley Project**

\*43. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Govern-