

Title: Regarding soil-erosion caused by river Ganga in Malda and Murshidabad district of West Bengal.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have not completed. (*Interruptions*) This erosion has endangered the railway track connecting North India and West Bengal with the North-Eastern States. The entire North-Eastern States will be disconnected. It has endangered the Farakka Barrage also. (*Interruptions*) Sir, let me complete. The Expert Committee recommended short-term and long-term measures. The Committee made two sets of recommendations:-

i. short-term measures with aggregated estimated costs of Rs. 315 crore and

(ii) long-term measures costing Rs. 612 crore.

The Central Government has, so far, released only Rs. 30 crore. (*Interruptions*) It is a national problem. I demand that the Central Government should consider the erosion of Ganga as a national problem and should release the amount immediately. (*Interruptions*) It is not possible for the State Government to tackle such a problem. Thousands of villagers have lost their houses as well as agricultural lands. The entire Malda district is in danger.

Therefore, the Government of India should come forward and assist the State Government, as recommended by the Expert Committee.