

Title: Demand to appoint a committee to look into the matter of continuous soil erosion by the Padma and Ganga River in West Bengal.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Respected Deputy-Speaker Sir, I take this opportunity to express my concern which is a sensitive one and which has already assumed national dimension. The severe erosion caused by the fury of the rivers Padma and Ganga has become a nightmare of the people of my State.

Sir, it is appalling to note that since 1971, one hundred square kilometers of land has been engulfed by the erosion of these rivers. Two commissions were constituted to review the erosion. One was Pritam Singh Committee and the other was Keskar Committee. But no follow up action has been taken so far. The situation is further compounded by the indifferent and callous attitude of the State Government of West Bengal. A comprehensive plan has yet to be prepared. Lakhs of people have been rendered homeless, assets worth crores of rupees have been lost.

So, I would like to propose that a parliamentary committee be set up to review the situation afresh.