

>

Title: Need to strengthen the banks of river Bhagirathi to prevent land erosion along its course in Ranaghat Parliamentary Constituency and nearby areas in West Bengal.

DR. SUCHARU RANJAN HALDAR (RANAGHAT): The river Ganges enters my Parliamentary Constituency Ranaghat at Nabadwip Assembly Constituency which is one of the seven assembly constituencies of my Parliamentary Constituency in West Bengal.

The Ganges here is named the Bhagirathi or the Hooghly which ultimately drains into the Bay of Bengal and on which the Kolkata Port is located.

Nabadwip is famous for the birth-place of Chaitanya Mahaparabhu. ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) is also having its Head Quarters at Mayapur – a part of Nabadwip. As a result, Nabadwip – Mayapur is an international place of pilgrimage for millions of people from all over the world round the year.

For the last more than 50 years or so, the river Hooghly i.e. the Bhagirathi is causing erosion on its eastern bank engulfing into it villages after villages making thousands of people losing their home. This devastation involves Nabadwip, Shantipur, Ranaghat South and Chakdah – 5 Assembly constituencies of my parliamentary constituency and parts of Kalyani Assembly Constituency of the neighbouring Bongaon Parliamentary Constituency. All these constituencies are located on the eastern bank of the Hooghly.

As a permanent solution to this perpetual devastation, a concretized embankment on the eastern bank of the Hooghly has to be constructed right from Nabadwip in the north to Kalyani in the South with constant vigil round the year. This constant vigil may be efficiently maintained by making a motorable metalled road along the whole length of it from Nabadwip to Kalyani. This will open up a new economic front for the thousands of people living there. Most of them are the weavers of the world famous Shantipuri Cotton & Silk Sarees. This will also generate thousands of associated employment opportunities. It may be done on PPP method. I am sure this will be both socially and economically viable. Pilgrimage from all over the world will travel by this road to Mayapur-Nabadwip after landing at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport (Kolkata Airport) enjoying this riverside vista all along. It will be a great tourist attraction also.